

## SHOW REPORTS

### AUBURN, CALIFORNIA DEC 7-8, 2002

By Ken and Dar

Wow, it's a long way to Auburn. The Show was held in two buildings at the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn. We arrived at the show about 1:30, and bought our early bird passes from a young man of about 10-12 years of age. I hope he was associated with the Auburn Club, and not an entrepreneur.

Dar and I wandered around looking for friendly faces. There was a lot of activity going on as the dealers were setting up their wares. Lots of dealers and early birds were coming and going. Someone came on the public address system to announce that some scoundrel had stolen a very expensive perfume bottle when a dealer wasn't looking. Everyone was warned to be vigilant and watch out for each other's merchandise.

The first Club members that we ran across was Don and Val Wippert. They were out early in hopes of finding a good bargain or two.

Chuck Erickson had a table of old Whiskys, and old bottles that he had dug in the L.A. area. Tim Blair had a table loaded with old glass. Ed Kuskie had a couple of tables loaded with his usual collection of exotic bottles and glass ware. We next ran into Don and Mary Mullally. Don was looking at all of the old whiskys that were for sale. Then we ran into Brad and Brenda Topper with their two kids. Brad was clutching a bag that held his, "winner". Bob Hirsch and his wife Carole were there, too. Bob was looking at the whisky bottles, but couldn't seem to find anything in his price range!

Bill Hamm had just released the latest edition of his book when Hirsch and Erickson rescued their now famous Chalmers Cataba Bitters bottle from a privy. He was advised that he would have to issue a revision to his book right away. He took an immediate exception to that idea. Just kidding, Mr. Hamm. The way Hirsch and Ericksons' luck is going, better hold off on those revisions until at least next year.

We ran into Warren Lhotka, a dealer from Washington State, that we have met at shows before. Dar and I bought an ink and a poison bottle from him. His

jealous detractors call him "the old hippie from Washington State". He seems to take it good naturedly.

We also met fellow diggers, Jim and Julie Dennis from Dufur, Oregon. Julie is a collector of inks, so she and Dar chatted about the, "keepers" that they had acquired since their last meeting.

We had the pleasure of finally meeting Dave Hall. For some reason, we never could find him at other shows. I had started calling him the, "invisible Dave Hall". We also met Tom Spellman, who was with Dwayne Anthony of the San Bernardino Bottle Club. Tom said that he has been a member of the LAHBC for 30 years, but has only been to a couple of meetings. Just raised my eyebrows on hearing that.

There were a lot of other dealers that we recognized from other shows and swap meets. Wish I could list them all, but I don't know all of their names. I do remember Ceceliam, and her husband, that sells at the Rosebowl Swap Meet. Dar has bought inks from her, and her husband every time that we see them. They always have a fine selection of bottles for sale.

We also ran into Gene and Phyllis Kimble of the San Bernardino Club, once out on the antique row of Auburn, and again at their table at the Show.

We think that this Show was great. One of the better shows of the year. One of the better shows of the year. We got to meet a lot of our Club Members, members of the San Bernardino Club, friends and dealers from several areas. The facilities were pretty good, too. The cement floor was really tough on bottles that got dropped. I heard at least three bottles turn into trash. The lighting in the large hall was kind of weak, too. Ask Bob Hirsch about the bottle he bought that had a ding in it. We didn't try the food at the show, but it sure smelled good. There was a big dude out back of the snack bar that was bar-b-queing up a storm.

I almost forgot to mention the displays. The first display says that it is the rarest bottle in America. The only one known to exist. Made from black glass from Philadelphia, for Able Brown,

business partner of Ben Franklin, in 1776. The second display was a very large collection of cobalt bottles. There were lots of sodas, inks, poisons and medicines. Very nice collection. The third display was a nice collection of unusual ceramic creamers and ceramic milk cows. The fourth display was a nice collection of embossed, etched and paper labeled Western Ammonia bottles. The fifth display was a very nice collection of American porcelain, "Face Pipes".

Dar and I attended both days of the Show. We usually just go for one day, but we were having fun talking to people, so we stuck it out 'till Saturday evening closing.

We decided to return to L.A. by way of Hwy 49. We couldn't make any time at all. Every little town had at least three antique shops to look through. It's a wonder that we made it back Sunday night. Good thing, too. We would not have had enough dog food for our patient dog Max, for his next feeding on Monday morning!

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