

GRAND CANYON GLASS

By Michael Miller

ARIZONA'S BEST
- PART ONE -

No matter the area of ones collecting, it is almost inevitable that one of the first things you hear from the non-collector is what is the best or most valuable item in your collection. Many would address this inquiry with a quick and direct answer. Others, like myself, would probably bore the poor soul to death with the debate of monetary value versus, color, historical value or rarity. No matter the approach to answering this all-important question, it is always fun to categorize and rate the best.

Since my areas of so called expertise include soda, whiskey, drugstore and food

bottles from Arizona I will restrict my best of lists to these categories. I will make no attempt to rate milk bottles or bottles of later origins such as ACL's. Also, since a single best of list would be totally dominated by the whiskey bottles and jugs, I felt it would be of greater interest to provide separate lists. These will include the different categories of sodas (Hutchinson, tooled top crowns & machine made crowns), drugstore and miscellaneous (to include food bottles, liquor bottles & stoneware). With the exception of milks, these include the major collecting areas of Arizona embossed bottles.

The first group of Arizona bottles I would like to address holds a lower position in the hierarchy of collectors' categories but occupies a soft spot in my heart as it was the first group of Arizona bottles in which I expanded.

Tooled top crown top sodas

Though never destined to approach the value of Arizona whiskey or Hutchinson soda bottles, the crown top soda has carved out a niche as a category for the beginning to moderate spending collector. Examples of these sodas are still numerous enough to keep the new collectors interest, yet some of the tooled top varieties are as desirable to the advanced seeker as some hitches. These rarest of the rare include several Coca-Cola bottles and sodas from famous Arizona mining towns.

- 1. CLIFTON SODA WORKS CLIFTON ARIZ.** - Two examples of this aqua soda have been documented at this time. J.N. McFate operated this works in the mining town of Clifton and the bottle was used just after the turn of the century. Due to later mine expansions that engulfed the sister towns of Metcalf and Morenci and subsequent flooding of the town of Clifton itself, bottles from Clifton are very hard to acquire.
- 2. THE DEALERS ICE & COLD STORAGE CO. - GLOBE, ARIZ. RETURN THIS BOTTLE** - Another aqua soda with 2 known examples and a toss up with the before mentioned bottle for the top spot. This



bottling operation replaced the Globe Ice & Cold Storage Company in 1910. J. N. McDonough and E.F. Smith initially ran this works which operated in this Central Arizona mining town until 1939.

3. COCA COLA BOTTLING WORKS PHOENIX, ARIZ. - An amber soda with between 10 to 15 examples known. The Coca-Cola connection and color are key to the high placing of this soda. Used by Furguson J. Halterman & George N. Baker around 1905, this bottle probably held cider or flavored soda water. Later Sanborn maps of this business show that this company also sold vinegar. There are no script bottle variants from this company and this is the only amber tooled top soda from Arizona.

4. G.L. MERRITT SODA WORKS.





PRESCOTT, ARIZ. - Four examples are known of Arizona's only quart sized aqua tool top soda. George L. Merritt purchased the Beavers & Heisler Soda Works in 1906 and operated it until 1920.

5. ZIEGLER'S SODA WORKS TUCSON, ARIZ.

This position is for the clear variant of this bottle. Peter Ziegler originally operated his works as an extension of the family confectionery business and grew it into the largest soda bottling company in Tucson. He sold the works in 1906 and became involved with many businesses including president of the Tucson Street Railway and owner of the Ziegler's Racetrack and Café. At one point an entire block in the city of Tucson was called the Ziegler block. His

spacious Victorian home is still standing at 126. N. 1st Avenue with his name spelled in German Gothic lettering on the steps to his front door. This one of a kind soda has further uniqueness in it's lack of a "Z" on the bottom of the bottle and block lettering on all words but "Ziegler's".

6. REGISTERED COCA-COLA BOTTLING WORKS PHOENIX, ARIZ. - A one of a kind aqua soda with the word "REGISTERED" on the shoulder "ROOT" on the bottom. Used at the same works as the before mentioned Coke bottle but at a later date. Earlier bottles from this works have no hyphen.

7. COCA COLA BOTTLING WORKS PHOENIX, ARIZ. - Another one of a kind aqua soda from the Phoenix plant, this bottle has the connected "AB" mark of the Adolphus Busch Glass Manufacturing Company on the reverse base and is from the first year of this works operation. The only example was found in a pit behind the works along with hundreds of broken examples of other Phoenix soda bottles.

8. THE ZIEGLER SODA WORKS L.L. BARRETT PROP. TUCSON, ARIZ. -

A rare aqua soda with 5 verified examples. The embossing reflects the sale of Peter Ziegler's business to Lewis L. Barrett in 1906 and Barrett's continued use of the Ziegler name testifies to Ziegler's importance in Tucson. On March 30th, 1907 Barrett sold the works to the Martin family and Crystal Soda Works was formed.

9. JESSE YOAKUM CLIFTON, ARIZ. -

An aqua soda with 5 known examples from the mining town of Clifton. Jesse Yoakum operated the Clifton Bakery and Bottling Works along with Karl Schade from 1901 to 1903. In 1903 Yoakum moved to Bisbee where he sold real estate and later became a superintendent for the Warren & Bisbee Railroad. Karl Schade continued to run the bottling works in Clifton along with his partner Richard Stephens. The S & S Bottling Works became the first bottlers of Coca-Cola in the territory and would later become Greenlee Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

10. TB - An aqua soda with 2 known examples accredited to Terry Burns of Tucson. Burns operated the Pioneer Soda Works from 1903 to 1909. This works had begun operation in 1894 and was originally owned by William Smith & Paul Smyly. Smith is noted for his involvement in additional soda works in Clifton and Phoenix and Smyly would later surface in the mining town of Jerome running a bottling operation. Both examples of this bottle were dug in privy's in Tucson. The bottles lack of town or territorial embossing keep it form a much higher position in the top ten.

Well that's my personal top ten and I'm sure that other collectors would have other bottles to add or subtract such as the W.E. Harrison bottle from Bisbee or the Houck & Dieter soda from Douglas. The point is that even though crown top sodas are considered as second rate or throwaways in some parts of the country, they are a desirable and sought after category to collect from Arizona.

Mike Miller is the author of "A Collector's Guide to Arizona Bottle and Stoneware, A History of Merchant Containers in Arizona." Contact Mike at: 9214 W. Gary Road., Peoria, AZ 85345 Phone: (623) 486-3123. or by E-mail: Helgramike@msn.com

