

Summer, beer and bottles

from Steve Ketcham

Minnesota: beer bunch is coming

There's nothing quite like a cold beer on a warm summer day. This summer, enjoying this simple pleasure in Minnesota will be enhanced by the arrival of the NABA convention. Why Minnesota? Perhaps Bob Hajicek said it best. "The Twin Cities area is a hot bed for breweriana collecting. Not only do we have a strong NABA membership, we also have the Hamm's Club and the biggest local chapter of the Beer Can Collectors of America."

Hajicek is chairman of this year's convention of the National Association of Breweriana Advertising. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Minneapolis West. Approximately 300 NABA members and spouses are expected to attend the event, which begins officially on Tuesday, July 29. Some collectors will arrive several days earlier to seek out breweriana in the local shops and to visit local beer collectors.

This convention is known for its week-long room hopping. Collectors will fill their rooms with breweriana and then shop up and down the corridors for that special item. This frenetic activity is just one small part of the goings on.

Plans are in place for tours of local members' collections. Tour buses will take interested NABA members to view the sites of breweries long-since closed as well as several which still practice the brewer's art. Sample suds will likely be available, allowing tourists to slake the thirsts of August. In that same spirit, a beer tasting will be held at the hotel prior to Saturday's

banquet.

A member-only auction will also take place, and a show and sale is planned for Saturday, August 2. Even with a week's worth of room hopping preceding it, the show is usually a sell out.

Readers interested in participating can register at the hotel beginning July 29. NABA membership is required for participation, and the convention registration fee is an additional \$80.

NABA has held conventions across the country since 1972. Convention towns have included St. Louis, Chicago, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Denver and Detroit. Four have been held in the Minneapolis - St. Paul area - more than at any other location. Milwaukee will catch up next summer when it will host its fourth convention. Until then, as Hajicek reminds us, the Twin Cities area is the hot bed for breweriana collecting. What better place to find a sleeper?

Iowa bottle show

Thirty four years is an impressive record in longevity for an antique bottle show. But put that show in the middle of a state which sees just four bottle club meetings a year and you have something special. The state is Iowa, and the show is sponsored by the Iowa Antique Bottlelers. By most standards it is a small show, boasting just 40 tables. On June 8, the dealers behind those 40 tables came from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, and Wisconsin to present an impressive array of goods for sale.

The show really began on Saturday,

when members from across Iowa and elsewhere gathered at an Ames, Iowa, motel for a club meeting. Because the Iowa Antique Bottlelers meet only four times each year, the event included lots of show and tell and a small, members-only auction. Once the meeting adjourned, it was off to a barbecue at the home of show chairman Don Faas. Here the evening was filled with, well, more bottle talk.

Sunday morning saw those willing to produce educational displays up early. Set up for this group was 6:00 A.M. Dealers rolled in at 7:00, and the show opened at 8:30.

This year four educational displays lined one wall of the show room: fruit jars, cigar memorabilia, Radam's Microbe Killer jugs (over two dozen variations!), and Iowa extract bottles. Display awards, named in memory of one-time Bottlelers Doc Herron and Katie Foglesong, were presented to Mike Burggraaf's cigar memorabilia display (pictured below). The Foglesong award is given for the best relic display, and the Herron award for the best researched display.

Lots of fruit jars were offered at this year's sale, and several insulator dealers were present as well. One dealer offered a table full of colorful tobacco tins in all shapes and sizes. Another table offered bottle cleaning machines and supplies. Among the buyers stopping by our table were collectors of barber bottles, Mary Gregory glass, agricultural memorabilia, fruit jars, and cigar collectibles.

A couple of years had passed since we'd been able to attend the Iowa show. It was



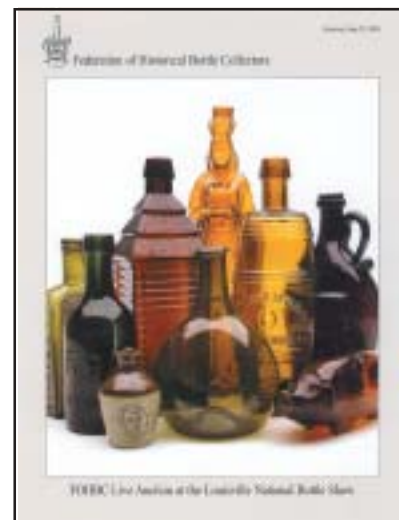
Mike Burggraaf's cigar memorabilia display won two awards at the Iowa bottle show. Part the display, this figural iron pig is actually a cigar cutter. It carries advertising from an Ottumwa, Iowa cigar dealer which reads, "Smoke Morey's Fat Hog Cigars."

good to get back to the Hawkeye antiques shops. Over the years these shops have been productive, and this year was no exception. A nice, partially labeled Towle's Log Cabin syrup bottle came home with us, together with an early photo of a creamery. A cigar box picturing James Whitcomb Riley, the Hoosier poet, and a nice patent medicine tin were among our other purchases.

Ames is a comfortable drive from the Minneapolis area, and with plenty of shops along the way, getting there was half the fun. Add a good bottle show to the weekend, and a trip to Iowa is a great way to begin the summer.



Though it had some condition problems, this Mankato, Minnesota, beer tray drew many an admiring glance.



FOHBC POST-AUCTION PRICE LIST JUNE 2003

1.	\$80	27.	\$375	53.	\$130
2.	80	28.	160	54.	140
3.	275	29.	600	55.	150
4.	70	30.	450	56.	140
5.	50	31.	170	57.	800
6.	500	32.	160	58.	180
7.	160	33.	200	59.	90
8.	180	34.	110	60.	120
9.	40	35.	140	61.	1300
10.	80	36.	170	62.	130
11.	180	37.	550	63.	400
12.	120	38.	160	64.	160
13.	130	39.	160	65.	375
14.	475	40.	90	66.	350
15.	220	41.	170	67.	350
16.	250	42.	275	68.	350
17.	100	43.	190	69.	180
18.	275	44.	180	70.	230
19.	500	45.	130	71.	160
20.	130	46.	140	72.	475
21.	200	47.	170	73.	2750
22.	100	48.	300	74.	400
23.	325	49.	1300	75.	90
24.	70	50.	2000	76.	350
25.	375	51.	210	77.	1000
26.	975	52.	130	78.	350



Several dealer tables were filled with glass insulators of many shapes and colors.



Marv Juel, of Illinois, toted over two dozen variations of William Radam's Microbe Killer jugs to Iowa to assemble this educational display. Radam once had 17 labs around the world producing his nostrum, which was sold in three different strengths. Many Radam's jugs feature a stenciled 1, 2, or 3 to indicate the power of the contents.



Steve Ketcham and his son, Sean, take a few moments out from the show in Louisville to have a chat with Don Yates.