

FOHBC NEWS



FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS

California Open Pontil Bottles

Hello Ferd: We have spoken a few times in the past and, as a matter of fact, whether it was you or your father, I am not sure but many years back there was a Ferd (Fred?) Meyer in Baltimore who, if I remember, collected poison bottles, that I used to correspond with about them, buying and selling.

Anyway, I know that the Sacramento show is going now so 99% of the bottle collectors in the nation are there, but I did just put together a list of bottles that I have been working on for a long time. It is a list of all known open pontiled California bottles, the criteria being that the bottles are either embossed or abbreviated "CALIFORNIA", and / or a California town is likewise embossed on them, proving they are truly CALIFORNIA embossed open pontil bottle.

Anyway, I just received some new information for the list, so while I updated it I thought that it would be great if you were interested in printing it in a future edition of the *Bottles and Extras* magazine. Maybe it could pose the question that if anybody knows of ANY other examples to add to this list, that they could contact me so I can likewise document them. My contact information is included at the end of the list.

I have attached (or attempted to, hope it comes through) the list in a spreadsheet, an Excel spreadsheet, so that you could possibly just copy and paste the list rather than having to have it reformatted? Again, that is IF you would be interested in running it in the magazine.

In closing, and for trivia sake, I did write an article on Owl Drug Co. bottles in the very 2nd issue of the original *Bottles and Extras* magazine, when Scott Grandstaff was publishing it and it was the small format. The article was in April 1990, Volume 1, No. 2.

I know you all are busy now with the show but maybe when you get home and the dust clears, you could at that time take this in and decide if it is worthy of publication. Hey, thanks Ferd,

Sincerely,

Marc Lutsko
Clancy, Montana

Open Pontil California bottles:

Criteria: Bottles are either embossed or abbreviated "CALIFORNIA", and / or a California town is likewise embossed on them, proving they are truly a CALIFORNIA embossed open pontil bottle.

"E.S HOLDEN & CO. / STOCKTON", 10" tall, aqua color, square cathedral peppersauce shape, O.P., Re: "*Ketchups, Pickles, Sauces*", pg. 248., Also "*Bottles and Extras*", Nov-Dec 2015, pg. 42.

"COMPOUND / FLUID EXTRACT / OF MANZANITA / DRS McDONALD & LEVY / SACRAMENTO CITY / CALIFORNIA", 4.5" tall, aqua color, oval shape, like a Jamaica Ginger. O.P., Re: "*19th Century Medicine In Glass*", pg. 29.

"W.H. BOVEE & CO. / SAN FRANCISCO", aqua color, rectangular shape, cinnamon (Hunnewell), O.P., Re: "*Ketchups, Pickles, Sauces*", pg. 55.

"MARDEN & FOLGER / SAN FRANCISCO", 6.5" tall, aqua color, rectangular. shape, cinnamon (Hunnewell) style. O.P., Marden & Folger in business ca. 1859-1864, Re: "*Ketchups, Pickles, Sauces*", pg. 153. One sold on 25 October 2015 on eBay for \$355.

"DR. H. ADOLPHUS / ANTI RHEUMATIC CORDIAL / / SAN FRANCISCO / CALIFORNIA", 7" tall, deep blue aqua color, rectangular shape, O.P., Re: Internet. Est. \$5,500 - \$6,500.

"ROWLERS / RHEUMATISM MEDICINE / PREPARED BY / DR. J. R. BOYCE / SACRAMENTO", 7 1/2" tall, teal green color, cylinder shape, O.P.

"H.T. KELLY / MARYSVILLE", Roughly 5" tall, aqua color, oval shape, like a Jamaica Ginger. O.P.

"DR. KELLY / MARYSVILLE". Roughly 5" tall, aqua color, oval shape, like a Jamaica Ginger. O.P.

"DR. BOWEN'S / BLOOD PURIFIER / SAN FRANCISCO", 10.5" tall, deep blue aqua color, rectangular shape, O.P.

"CALIFORNIA BITTERS / MANUFACTURED BY / J. G. FRISCH SAN FRANCISCO", Roughly 9" tall, deep amber color, tapered square shape. O.P. Pictured and described on pg. 41. Wichmann book *Antique Western Bitters Bottles*.

"WM T. COLEMAN & CO. / * (embossed Star) / SAN FRANCISCO", Roughly 7.5" tall, colorless 'flint' glass, union oval type whiskey flask. O.P. Pictured and described on pg. 94, Thomas book *Whiskey Bottles*.

"BAKER & CUTTING / GLASS & PICKLE MFRS. / / SAN FRANCISCO", large cathedral pickle style, green, amber, aqua, square, O.P.

"BOLEY & CO. / SAC CITY CAL - UNION GLASS WORKS / / PHILADA", Early blob top soda bottle - cobalt blue, O.P., Re: "*West-*

ern Blob Top Soda Bottles", Markota, pg. 6.

"**B. R. LIPPINCOTT / STOCKTON**". Early blob top soda bottle -cobalt blue color, O.P. Re: Discussion with Mike Henness, 2015, definitely open pontil and not iron pontil.

"**LYNDE & PUTMAN / MINERAL WATERS / SAN FRANCISCO / CAL. A - UNION GLASS WORKS / PHILAD**", early blob top soda bottle - teal blue, green, cobalt color, O.P., Re: "Western Blob Top Soda Bottles", Markota, pg. 53.

"**HENRY WINKLE / SAC CITY - X X**", Early blob top soda bottle - aqua color, O.P., Re: "Western Blob Top Soda Bottles", Markota, pg. 95.

References:

Your list is pretty complete, I can't think of any others but maybe this one: There is a round "E.S. Holden" medicine from Stockton but I'm not sure if Stockton is embossed on it. Also the Dr. Kelly from Marysville I believe reads: "DR. KELLY / MEDICINE". - Dale Mlasko.

All of the busted Baker & Cutting pickles I've dug (at least 10) have been open pontil, it's a funky kind of pontil but open. I do have several pieces. - Lou Lambert.

There is a cobalt blue open pontiled soda, a Lippincott, from Stockton, Cal., that definitely has an open pontil, not an iron pontil. I have handled it myself. - Mike Henness.

Listed below are other documented California bottles, etc. that are open pontil but not embossed with town, state, or California:

"**WILLIAMS / & / SEVERANCE**", early blob top soda bottle - aqua, blue, green color, O.P., Re: "Western Blob Top Soda Bottles", Markota, pg. 94.

Marc Lutsko, Last Chance Antiques, Unit 7091, 2300 N. Harris Street Helena, MT 59604-7369, letsgo@montanasky.net

Image of H. H. Warner



Ferdinand: In the interim since I sent my article to you (Editor: within this issue), I have obtained permission to use the photograph of H. H. Warner that is attached. This is the ONLY photograph I have ever seen of him and it was used to generate the steel engraving which most folks are familiar with. If used, the photograph should be credited as "Courtesy Special Collections, University Library, University of California Santa Cruz. Lick Observatory Records."

Steve Jackson (Virginia)

McClellan Conference Center Feedback

Cheryl (McClellan Conference Center): You asked for some candid feedback:

Overall, we were very pleased with the McClellan Conference Center and our contacts. It is an odd facility for us but it worked out great with the big unloading area and Hangar Coffee Shop. We were challenged with light and tight corridors but we managed. Parking was great.

I must say, our worst fears were averted by sunny weather, and replaced bulbs in the General Assembly room. With glass, we need light. We realize the baffles, upturned lights and general dimness are much more suitable to a conference environment and you are a conference center opposed to a convention center. Many people noted the dimness, especially at the sides of the floor. It appears that eyes adjusted and we made out OK. We would strongly suggest that you continue with your LED refit and add a dimmer. It was unfortunate that the work was not complete in time for our convention.

Security was pretty much a flop. While the girls certainly were friendly and personable, they were certainly not anything close to the desired deterrent we strived for. The guy on Sunday fell asleep, abandoned his post, played with his phone etc. I would let your security company know that we were not happy.

We struggled to keep our trash cans empty and had a hard time getting someone to do this task. This is a pet peeve of mine. Our pre-registration area, all weekend, had to use boxes for trash. Suggest you let housekeeping know that their presence is desired. I also thought the men's bathroom was in disarray most of the show.

Our microphone only reached a small portion of the General Assembly room. We were warned about this but quoted \$4,000 for speakers. This was a real disappointment. You need to embed house sound.

This is constructive criticism and in no way reflects any overall disappointment. We all had a great time. The Lions Gate Hotel and McClellan Base far exceeded our expectations. The food was also far superior to most hotels. The folks we worked with, while there were many, really were great too!

Ferdinand Meyer V, FOHBC President

Unique Glass Collection

Ferdinand, I love your Peachridge Glass website. I have a unique collection of glass that would blow your or any other collector's minds. I am sure there is nothing like it. You can see a sample of what I am talking about in the booklet we just published to document the first 18 photos of the collection we have put together called, "The First Golden Age of the Cannabis Pharmacy, 1830-1937." A watermarked copy is attached. If you reply with your mailing address, I will send you a few copies.

I do not have a background in the collection of glass and am



looking for an apothecary expert. We are doing our best to document and interpret the collection and tell its story and are looking for professional help that can help us document the details of the collection. We are also looking for help getting proper appraisals of the pieces. If you are qualified to do this, great, if not, we could use a recommendation.

If you, or you and your wife, would like to fly to see what we are talking about, let us come to terms as to the cost of your services. If you are not able to help me, please help me find the proper help.

Don E Wirtshafter

Black and White Scotch Whiskey logo



Dear Ferdinand, My name is Sarah and I'm writing a formal analysis on a specific more modern Black and White Scotch Whiskey logo. I came across the art and immediately wanted to write about it. However, it's been a battle to find who designed it, when, what the idea was behind it because it seemed to be the only one that was colorful versus the other logos with the Black and White Terriers.

I ran across your Peachridge Glass post when hunting for information and it seemed you knew something about this brand.

I'm contacting you if you know anything or could possibly direct me on the logo of the 1960 looking female figure. If there is no information to get on this piece, then that's OK with me. I just wanted to see if there was. Hope to hear from you soon! Thank you for your time! - Sarah

[FM5] Sarah: That's a tough one. I don't know. Reminds me of some of Peter Max's advertising art.

Never say never

Ferdinand, have you ever heard of a cobalt Brimstone Bitters or Indian figural Cochise Bitters, both from Tucson, Ariz.?

Bill Baab, Augusta, Georgia

[FM5] Never!!!! No such.

[Bill Baab] The late Jane Blacharski of the Arizona Territory

Antique Bottle Club, in Tucson, and I corresponded back in the 1970s. She sent me a copy of a letter from a collector who did not reveal his mailing address, inquiring about those two bitters. He claimed the pair (the Indian was damaged) was sold at one of the Atlanta shows, reportedly talked to the seller (and didn't get his name).

Jane reasoned that if folks knew about those bottles, why wasn't there mention of them in the Southeastern Antique Bottle Club newsletter of those days, or mention of them any place else (*Old Bottle Magazine*, *Antique Trader* et al)? So she thought the letter was a spoof.

That letter and other correspondence from her and other collectors and dealers are being sent to Jim Bender for the FOHBC archives. I told him to make the determination to keep them or chuck them.

I have a 1970s letter from Bill Agee (the cures guy), offering me \$85 for a small River Swamp and \$110 for a large one. I paid \$8,000 for my large size and \$2,300 for the small one. Wish my stocks portfolio had gone up like that!

Watson "1"- NOT the best name

Ferdinand, at the Sacramento National, much talk ensued regarding the Federation's choice to name the 2017 Springfield National auction "Watson 1". Jim Bender was a participant in one of these around-the-sales-table discussions and in an earlier one-on-one with me, both following his breakfast meeting announcement.

Getting right to the issue, "Watson 1" implies and delivers the message to collectors that following this FOHBC auction, the rest of the Watson collection will now be sold; i.e., is soon to follow. Many collectors and dealers I spoke to at Sacramento now have this understanding or assumption. Jim Bender has explained this is extremely unlikely; that this assumption is false and unfounded.

Jim explained that he had to work long and hard to finally receive an agreement from family members to allow just 120 or so bottles to be released for sale in benefit of the FOHBC and as a memorial to Dick Watson. Due to the Watson family's demanding business, lack of financial need and no firm plan for the multi-faceted collection's dispersal, there is no promise or likelihood of additional Watson bottles being offered for sale anytime soon thereafter. So why is this important for collectors to know?

Since Dick Watson's passing, the disposition of his incredible, lifetime general collection has been the subject of bottle collector's dreams and discussion wherever they may congregate. For almost two years, I have heard collectors use the Watson collection as an "excuse" or reason not to buy a good bottle now. While my philosophy is "a bird in the hand ...", clearly many others don't see it that way. Therefore any strong message inferring that the Watson collection is about to come out, is a disservice to the dealer, bottle auctioneers and last but not least, the collector him or herself. That today's bottle market would soften and that collectors pass up a present opportunity to purchase a rare and outstanding bottle...banking on "pie in the sky" down the road, is

unthinkable. That the Federation would promote “pie in the sky” is therefore, also unthinkable.

I invite the FOHBC to retract and change the name of this upcoming Springfield auction. While the FOHBC needs and deserves a great “come-on” to get us all to this summer show, other and better ways are available, if only citing the many success stories of Sacramento. Many better name choices for this auction can be created. Finally, Jim Bender’s explanation of the “status” of the Watson collection, as he sees and knows it, should be published in *Bottles and Extras*. THAT would be a service to all of us in the bottle collecting community.

Note: I encourage you to publish my letter in *Bottles and Extras*. I plan this also as a letter to John Pastor for publication in *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, but out of respect to you will not do so until I hear any comments you may have. Regards,

Jeff Burkhardt
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

[FOHBC] Hi Jeff, You are the only one to date to have an issue with the name. I explain to anyone who asks that there are no set dates to sell anymore bottles at this time. Even the big auction guys understand that as well and have for awhile now.

Two years ago I started hearing things about the Watson bottles being sold. All rumors and speculation. I can tell you this: if a good bottle comes along at a good price, a collector will buy it. I can’t believe everyone is not buying bottles waiting for the Watson bottles. People can read whatever they want into whatever they can. The name was my idea and I stand behind it as the first sale. I clearly tell people that Watson Two could be years away. We are in no way promoting a series of auctions, just one in Springfield which happens to be the first one.

I will be doing an article in *Bottles and Extras* in January called Springfield Bound. I will be touching on the auction at that time as well as all time it takes to put on these huge events. I am sure along the way there will be other things people dislike and may not agree with but that’s life and we all can’t agree on everything.

Jim Bender
Sprakers, New York
2017 Springfield National Co-Chair

Helping the National Bottle Museum

Dear Ferdinand, My name is Ellie Dillon and I am currently president of the board at the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa. At our monthly meeting we were discussing redoing our brochure. Your name and organization was mentioned as a means to possibly assist us in this project. The cost of designing and printing a professional brochure is an expense that at this time we cannot do alone.

I am not sure exactly what was meant by “assistance” that a board member mentioned, but your thoughts on this matter would be gratefully appreciated.

[FOHBC] The FOHBC will be helping with the design and using FOHBC printing resources that may lower the cost.

Burette Dairy

Dear sir: My great-grandfather owned a dairy in Moultrie, Georgia back in the 1930s. I have been searching for a milk bottle from his dairy for 30 years and have had no luck. Any help or leads you could offer would be greatly appreciated. My name is Charles Eaton and I live in Adairsville, Kentucky. I would pay any expenses that this would cost you. Thanks for any information you might provide.

[FOHBC] Suggest you contact the National Association of Milk Bottle Collectors (NAMBC). A simple search online should do the trick.

Old Taylor Book Cover



Hi, my name is Ron Kercher and I am living in Europe - Holland. We collect old and rare whisk(e)y, most of it is from Scotland but once and a while we stumble over an old odd one. This bottle was bought and shipped from Italy to Holland. The label says from E. H. Taylor Jr. Co. There is no indication of what it is, no volume or contents and the label looks the same as the back book cover on your web post. I don’t know when the book was released and or if the bottle was made for marketing purposes. If you could help me unravel this puzzle, I would be very grateful. Thanks.

Bring Back the Cartoons



Hi Ferdinand - Just a thought: If you ever need a little filler for the FOHBC magazine, the early bottle magazines often had a cartoon, many of them quite funny. Check out the one attached. I’m sure there a lot of members with old issues that would send you a good ’toon if you asked. They are so old I don’t think copyright issues would apply. The one below is from the April 1973 issue of *The Bottle Trader*. Take care...

Ed & Lucy Faulkner, Moseley, Virginia

