

VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS

By Richard Siri

Mission Statement

The FOHBC Virtual Museum has been established to display, inform, educate, and enhance the enjoyment of historical bottle and glass collecting by providing an online virtual museum experience for significant historical bottles and other items related to early glass.

Virtual Museum News is a new section within each issue of Bottles and Extras authored by museum founder, Richard Siri, to give our membership an update on progress for this landmark project.

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I'm sure everyone in the world has seen or heard about the devastating firestorm that tore through Santa Rosa in October 2017. As I was deciding which bottles to save because I had few boxes in which to put them, I thought I wished Alan (DeMaison) had photographed all of my collection instead of the 46 he did.

Still photos are great but nothing compares to the spinning bottle images that we are developing for the Virtual Museum.

We survived the fire without loss as well as most other bottle collectors here in the Santa Rosa area. There was one major loss of research on Western medicine bottles that Frank Sternad had been working on for many years. Frank lost his house to the fires. Overall, there were 2,900 homes lost in Santa Rosa and over 6,000 in the four counties of Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino and Napa. Lots of family treasures, collectibles and classic cars were also lost.

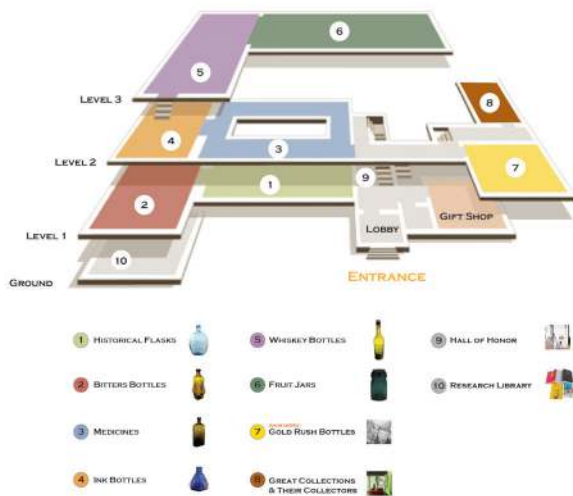


So what does this have to do with the Virtual Museum? Over time, we will try to gather images of all types of bottles, jars,

insulators, target balls, etc., and make them available to interested people. Hopefully while we still can. When a disaster happens, and they will, much is lost forever. We need to have a record of them. The spinning bottle images are surreal and you really get a feeling for the subject unlike a still photograph.

Currently, Alan has photographed 127 spinning bottles and is set up to do a photo shoot of Ralph Finch's target balls at American Glass Gallery. After the shoot, Alan then edits all images for shadows and other imperfections.

Alan has brought the cost down from our first quote of \$600 per spinning bottle to \$160 per spin and at this point to \$11.76 per spin. That figure includes his travel expenses. I'd have to say he has mastered the spinning bottle. We need someone like him to manage the government spending!



Ferdinand (Meyer) is working on building the Virtual Museum site as each image will be inserted into a shelf within its respective gallery. You can see a schematic web site graphic diagram above showing the museum floors and galleries. As mentioned in the last issue, the Bitters Gallery will open first, followed by Historical Flasks, then Spirits which includes Whiskey, Bourbon, Rye, Gin, Rum etc. We hope to move to Fruit Jars after that. All this work takes hundreds of hours.

Within the gallery, once you select a bottle you will be taken to a page dedicated to that bottle. The 3-dimensional spinning image and still photograph images will be available along with the latest bottle information (or bottle story). This may include patent drawings, advertising, newspaper clippings and any other related material.

Ferdinand has also assured us that the museum will be built above the current Texas high water line.

One last thing. If you haven't already, please consider donating to the Virtual Museum project.

