



New Mexico soda bottler's life is detailed in historical book

By Bill Baab

When most of us started to collect antique bottles, at first we were fascinated by their crudity (applied tops or lips, bubbles and other flaws), colors (cobalt blue, emerald, red, yellow) and contents (beers, ales, whiskies, patent medicines). Next came curiosity: Who were these pioneer bottlers, brewers, distillers and medicine men?

Thanks to the Internet, lots of information has been recorded and is available by simply looking and clicking. But the very best and most accurate information comes from surviving family members, most of whom proudly shared their histories and memories

The best magic moments for researchers come when questions get answered, sometimes from unlikely sources.

My friends Bill Lockhart and Zang Wood have co-authored "*The Remarkable T.L. Reber; Soda Bottles and Bottling in the Black Range and Silver City, New Mexico.*" While the title is a bit long, the contents in the 149-page, soft-cover book are longer and loaded with information of which most collectors are not aware.

All deal with Theodore L. Reber, described by the authors as "The Johnny Appleseed of Soda Bottlers." Reber and his wife, Rebecca, formulated a business plan: They'd arrive in a town and buy or rent a lot. Carpenter by trade, Reber would construct a one- or two-room building and open a soda bottling plant. Once it became successful, the Rebers would sell out and move on to the next town, railroad center or mining town and repeat their formula.

Reber claimed to have sold 50 setups in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and El Paso, Texas. Just think of all those bottles.

The Black Range is described as a mountain chain extending from Silver City in east New Mexico to Interstate 25 in the west. The Rebers are known to have opened two bottling works in that region and one led to a mystery described in that chapter

The final chapters deal with the bottling history of Silver City, N.M., and the Rebers' role in its development.

While the writer does not collect New Mexico bottles, he was fascinated by the histories and the wide range of valuable information compiled by the authors. Lockhart teaches at the Alamogordo campus of New Mexico State University and has authored several books. Wood's research led to his definitive work on New Mexico Hutchinson bottles.

The well-illustrated Reber book costs \$30 a copy and is available from Lulu.com. Go to that site and click on Bill Lockhart in the search box. You'll be glad you did.





WISCONSIN
Antique
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Club

SECOND ANNUAL

ANTIQUE BOTTLE & COLLECTIBLES SHOW / SALE

Waukesha Expo Center • 1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha, WI 53188
Dealer Set up: 6AM Open to Public: 8AM



Waukesha County
EXPO CENTER
SATURDAY
OCT 13th
2018

YEAR ONE DEALER FEEDBACK

“It was great to have a fall antique bottle and advertising show again...a big void after the Madison show ended. The facility was excellent as to logistics, space, lighting, parking and ease of load-in/load-out. The buying traffic was excellent for a 1st year show and my sales actually exceeded any Milwaukee area show I've done in recent years. Count me in next year!”

Jeff Burkhardt - FOHBC Member - Collector of rare, colored, historic American bottles and all colored finishes beautiful American glass

“Collectors were buying. Saturday show was a positive and the three two hundred dollar certificates to buy at the show had attendees sticking around. Win or lose they seemed to buy more the longer they stayed. Great show!”

Steven R. Libbey (mrbottles) - WABAC Member FOHBC Member - Collector of early rare and colorful Wisconsin bottles and stoneware

RESERVATIONS

Table space is limited, priority given in order of receipt. Show will be promoted across multiple channels - first come, first serve! Please remit \$35 non-refundable to reserve each 8' table. No table sharing or re-selling.

SET UP & ADMISSION

If you are not set up by 8:30 we reserve the right to reassign your table without refund. Each table reservation comes with 2 admission passes with a purchase. Setup start time 6am.

CLOSING

To ensure the best possible future of this event all attendees are asked to keep their table open until at least 1:00 PM. Leaving early will preclude you from invitation to future events.

CANCELLATIONS

If you are unable to make the event for any reason please email steven@wisantique.com ASAP.

TABLE RESERVATION

Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$35 (add \$10 for checks received after October 1st)

Mail checks with this contract to:
Wisconsin Antique & Adv. Club C/O Steven R. Libbey
1430 E Moreland Blvd Waukesha, WI 53186

