

**RENO****2020**FOHBC NATIONAL ANTIQUE  
BOTTLE CONVENTION

R E N O

# SHOOTOUT

**GSR GRAND**  
SIERRA RESORT AND CASINOInfo: **FOHBC.org**

This friendly competition will compare and judge three particular types of bottles from anyone who would like to enter examples that they own. The three judging events will be for the 'best' J. F. Cutter star shield type whiskey fifth, Bay City Soda Water Co. bottle and for the Old Sacher's Bitters and Wigwam Tonic. The merits of each bottle will be judged by a panel of veteran collectors experienced with each type. Each bottle entered into the competition will be given a unique code that represents the owner, so the judges will not know the identity of the owner until after final judging. Limit three bottles per category per person.



Thursday evening, July 30, 2020, 8:00 to 10:30 pm, Bottle Registration: 6:30 pm - Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Rooms 6 & 7



## GROUP 1: BAY CITY SODA WATER BOTTLES

The Bay City Soda Water Company was formed under the laws of the State of California in December 1870, with stock amounting to \$100,000. It was the first incorporated soda water company in California.

On April 27, 1872, the company trademarked its unique styled bottles to deter imitators. The bottle described in the submitted registration papers is shown here and is a copy of the actual filing. Several mold and color variants are known so it will be very interesting to see what has been found in this family of Bay City soda bottles. With that in mind, this competition will truly be based solely on the aesthetic qualities embodied in each example. Color, condition and other characteristics of the glass will be the merits that will guide the judges to their decision of a first, second and third place winner.

As is nearly always the case with antique bottles, some real surprises may emerge from the submitted entries, and this is what we are hoping to see. We urge anyone who has an example that they think is special, to share it in a grouping that may never be witnessed again.

## GROUP 2: J. F. CUTTER FIFTH WHISKEY BOTTLES

Just as with the Bay City Soda, the second 'shootout' will be with a decidedly western bottle with a similar historical beginning. The J. F. Cutter bourbon bottles were initially documented with a protective trade mark issued by the State of California on April 15, 1870, although the registrant, John F. Cutter, was actually a resident of Louisville, Kentucky when the trade mark was registered. Cutter worked closely with his San Francisco agent, Edward Martin, in attempting to corner the Cutter brand whiskey market.

Much has been written about the brand and legal troubles that entangled it with the J. H. Cutter trade marks. It is safe to state that this whiskey was far more popular than soda water and many more examples and mold variants of the bottle were produced over the next three decades, but they all kept with the general theme of the registered trade mark. Some beautiful examples of this bottle have been found over the years and it will be exciting to see a representative grouping entered into this competition.

## GROUP 3: OLD SACHEM'S BITTERS AND WIGWAM TONIC

This figural bitters barrel is a favorite among collectors. With a great name, the bottles come in a stunning array of colors. The label stated that it was "From an old Indian recipe in possession of the family of the proprietor for upwards of a century is now offered to the public as one of the most healthy and wholesale beverages extant and as a tonic is unsurpassed. Sold by principal grocers, druggists and hotels throughout the union. Endorsed by a professor at Yale College."

George Goodwin began manufacturing patent medicines in the 1840s at 76 Union in Boston. Around 1850, he and Dr. John O. Langley of Langley's Bitters became partners and in 1854, moved to 99 Union.

By 1857, the firm was named Geo. C. Goodwin & Co., and had taken in William B. Hibbard as a junior partner. Goodwin retired in 1859 and his son Charles C. Langley, and Hibbard ran the business. In 1863, they moved to 38 Hanover. Eventually the company became one of Boston's largest wholesale drug firms. We will see some great examples in this category.

