

Meet Steve Kehrer

by Ferdinand Meyer V



Steve Kehrer, 64 and his father Skip who is 84

Please meet Federation member Steve Kehrer who lives in southern Illinois. He's been collecting glass since 1968 and started with his father, Skip Kehrer, who will be 83 years old in October. Steve will be 63 this August. They both collected fruit jars and went to Indy shows searching for jars for many years. They would also buy local sodas and better bottles and trade for fruit jars. Sometimes, collectors would rather have jars and bottles instead of money.

In 2003, Steve started selling southern Illinois real estate. You can look him up on Facebook. His company is called The Kehrer Team. Steve's son Jay is his partner.

During this period in 2003 or so, Steve decided to collect sodas in all the areas where they sold property. Steve drew a line from I-70 south but sometimes would buy sodas from the north, if he liked them. He has a few better bottles he bought just because he liked them from other states.

Also, during this time period, Steve went around to the bottle collectors who were getting up in age that he had sold sodas bottles to for years and years and asked them what they were going to do with their collections? If they came to an agreement, Steve would end up buying their collections.





Steve's soda collection, and eggbeaters, mixers, mayonnaise makers and Dazey butter churns from St. Louis.





Here is 4 images of Steve's soda bottle collection

As the years have gone by, Steve is trying to complete his collection. "I have to say, it has been a challenge as sometimes I go for months and months without a find and sometimes, I find a few bottles that I never thought I would find. I always try to pay a fair price and those sellers come back with more bottles if they know what I am looking for."

Last year, Steve found about twenty southern Illinois sodas he thought he never would find.

He also likes to show his bottles on the bottle Facebook sites. This has led other collectors to message him with similar bottles from his area. He is always surprised how these local bottles turn up. Steve also collects St. Louis colored sodas and has a great start but says he has many still to get!

Last of all, Steve collects eggbeaters, mixers, mayonnaise makers and Dazey butter churns from St. Louis. He also has a few amber Mason jars and is trying to find a good screw-on beater for the amber jars. "They look cool," Steve says.

Steve also enjoys and supports his local bottle show in Belleville, Illinois and in St. Louis, he is a member of The Metro East Bottle Club. He never knows what someone will bring to his sales table and will always take some better colored sodas and bottles just to attract advanced collectors to see what they collect and like to trade with them. Steve has many doubles, he says, and usually does well.

"The thrill of the find is like digging, I never was a digger, just a buyer."

In closing Steve reports, "if I have to have a bottle cleaned, I use by my good friend Lou Lambert in California. A true professional. When they come back, it's like Christmas when I open up the package and look at my freshly cleaned bottle."

"Like I always say on Facebook, Thanks for looking!"