

# A brief commentary on the somewhat new Bottle Digging Video Craze.

by Jeff Mihalik



There are so many bottle digging and other adventure crews that are now posting weekly stories on several of the more popular social media sites that it looks like bottle digging stories are losing their significance. The new primary means of providing folks a vicariously digging experience and a good bottle dig. It may be just a matter of time before the bottle magazines will only be available in digital format. You'll have access to multiple links to online digging stories, videos and research all close to real-time. Guess I am old school, but given how much work using a computer, hours spent watching the news, sports, etc., on TV, I'm a huge fan of reading print (be it a good book or more often, a scientific or hobby journal/magazine).

One of the great things I've noticed is that there seems to be a reliable and renewed interest in bottle digging as social media has reached out to new and, in many cases, younger enthusiasts. I'm thrilled and excited to see both the long-time diggers and new, more inexperienced crews posting digging adventures. Yes, this is fueled by self-promotion with folks hoping to "cash in" on having enough followers. People can get backed by some media giant like the History Channel or some other entity who will provide advertisements during these videos so the self-promoters can make a good buck. Some of the crews seem to be just interested in sharing their excitement of discovery, especially now with many people staying at home. Whatever their motivation is, it looks like most of these diggers are currently conducting live auctions, behind the scenes (private posts) wheeling and dealing, etc., of the items dug. Whatever is working for both the digger and buyer, then more power to you.

However, a word of caution; I see some very precarious digging situations being "televised." A couple of guys are digging solo and trying to video what they are doing simultaneously. Not safe! There are also a couple of 2-person crews digging.

The person who needs to be paying attention to all the safety factors is more concerned with how the video is looking while their partner is undercutting a wall of bricks, 5-10 feet of fill, or other such risky situations. It's just not worth it. I would suggest having a third person onsite who is just taking care of the video. Safety first!

Although it may seem like a good idea at the time, I really can't understand why someone would promote the value of a particular bottle dug. I know at least two diggers who have done this recently and I am pretty sure they didn't have permission to be digging at these locations. Even if they did, I suspect that the property owner would be very interested in hearing about this (same for the IRS, LOL). I can also think of many reasons why promoting dug bottle values can be a deterrent to the bottle digging hobby.

Have fun digging, do some research, post your videos, write a bottle digging the story and all is good. I just feel that at some point, bragging about how expensive a bottle "may" be, will only come back to bite you (and probably other diggers) in the end.

Yeah, almost all diggers sell bottles, but in nearly all cases, the selling is separate from the digging. In a similar way of thought, I don't want to see any bottle digging series on TV. They only show episodes where good and/or a large number of bottles are dug! Promoting the value of dug bottles, going on TV to self-promote and showing dangerous digging situations online could quickly make it impossible to get digging permission. Land-owners will all think that every privy will be the honey hole or worry about safety. Okay, that just my 2 cents, enough said.

Have fun digging and be safe!

