

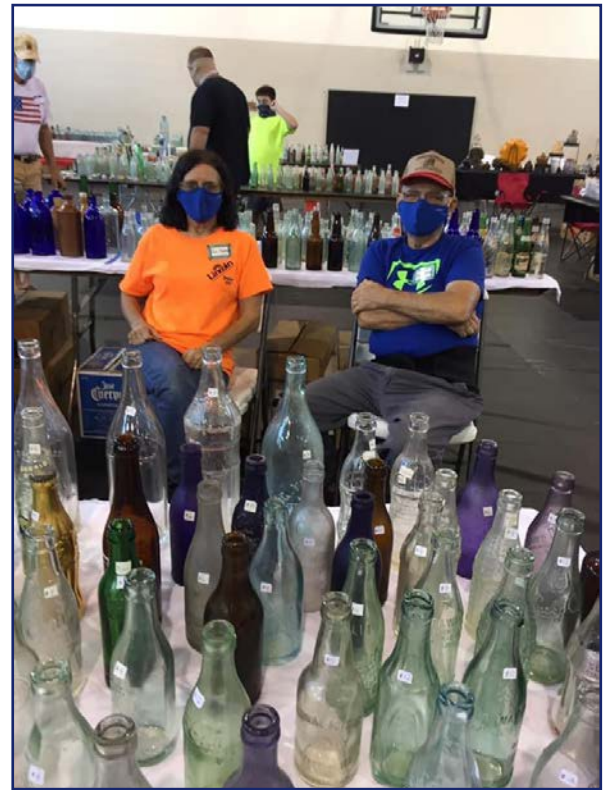
# Lincoln Bottle Show 2020

By Jake Smith

**C**hairmen work and think about their show before anyone else does. They have boots on the ground getting venues, tables, dates, work at cost, advertising the show, and getting vendors and spectators. Often the latter two are the hardest. Because a chairman has to try to balance what all the folks want, and don't want and folks will refuse to support a show if they don't get what they want. This attitude is very toxic to the show and to the hobby. In turn, the folks that support the show and the ones that come mean so much more to the chairmen, at least to me it does. Even with all those tasks, this year has added more to show chairmen. Some chairmen felt like they needed to cancel, some moved show dates, and some, like myself, went on like business as usual. By no means am I cutting down a chairman's decision about his show, the chairman acted on whatever he thought was to be safest and best for the show. I know that all chairmen hope for the best for their show in the following year. So before I start discussing the Lincoln Show, I want to ask that all collectors support your local shows, help them rebound from this rough year.

Lincoln, Alabama is a smaller town on Interstate 20 that sits 45 minutes east of Birmingham, Alabama, and an hour and 45 minutes from Atlanta, Georgia. A lot of people know the town for a NASCAR track named Talladega Speedway. The City of Lincoln has been very good to the show in the 5 years we have been in the town. The show is in a well naturally lighted gym in the city civic center in historic downtown. It is air-conditioned, which is really nice in the South in August. It is ground level so bringing items into the gym is easy to do.

Some say I am hard-headed and stubborn, and those facts are true. That may be the main reason I did not want to move or cancel the show, but personally



Joe and Jan Justice from Jasper, Alabama set up ready to sell, Boy in back is Bradlee Smith age 11 (chairman's son) running his dad's table



Joe and Jan talk while Bob Jenkins looks over the great deals



A snap shot of some of the different types of bottles being sold



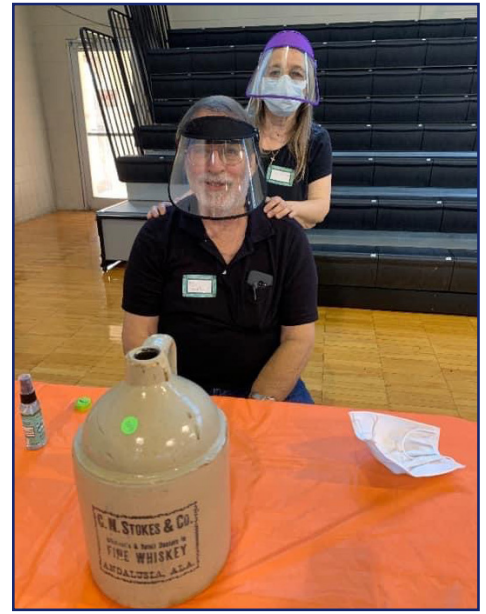
I felt the show must go on, to give hope to people. I watched and studied CDC guidelines adjusted and hoped, with social distancing and downsizing tables from 50 to 43 the show would continue. We filled 41 of the 43 tables. I made signs to remind folks of masks and social distancing. I even offered these signs to the vendors. Still unsure if the show was going to happen I did not advertise much, but when I knew about two weeks before the show date that the show would be allowed, I began to push and advertise anywhere I could as fast as I could. This even got me banned on Facebook for 4 days. With all of that, we still had vendors from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida and by the spectators, I talked to I met folks from Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. We had 2 active show chairmen, Bill Johnson from the Atlanta Bottle Show and Ralph Dean from an Insulator Show in Georgia, and 3 retired show chairmen, Tom Lines, Bill Peek, and Bob Jenkins, as vendors at the show that I knew of. It's always a treat that other chairmen past and present support your show either by being a vendor or spectator.

The show vendors were about 50 percent returning vendors from years past and the rest of the vendors bring new vendors to the show. The vendors had an array of items from bottles, jugs, jars, advertising items, postcards, relics, artifacts, coins, money, insulators to name a few items that were there. The vendors were there to sell and willing to listen to offers and make deals. Which is great for the spectators. There were bottles for \$1.00 each to Coca-Cola hutches in the \$3,500 range, so no matter your spending budget there were bottles waiting to be sold.

We had folks bring items from off the street to have looked at, the information given and some were bought and traded. To me, this is always a great thing to see at any show. From about 8 am, when early buyers started, the foot traffic stayed busy until about noon. I hope that it was because of the COVID that the lack of spectators decreased around noon and not for the lack of folks wanting to come to shows. The informational table was full of flyers and business cards from vendors, shows, and local businesses. Which was better than it has been in the past, so hope-



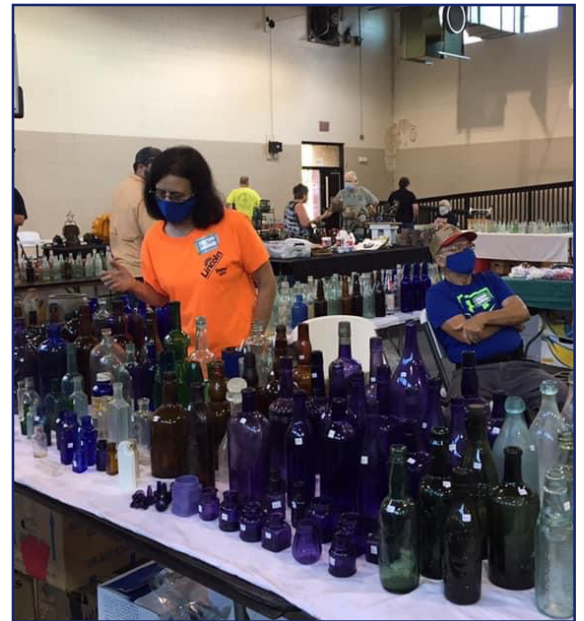
Joyce Johnson from Snellville Georgia, mans table while Bill is away



Bill and Toni Garland of Anniston Alabama stop for a photo in front of one of their jugs they had for sale.



Sydney Smith, age 14, (chairman's daughter) runs the front table taking money for early buyers and helping folks with information.



Jan checking over their bottles to make sure they stay neat

fully the word is getting out that we do these.

Now on the other end, the kids attending the show were way down. We have done a free kids table for at least 4 years in hopes to help kids get into the hobby, also this allows them not to go home empty-handed even if the folks who brought them do not want to spend money on a bottle that the child may break. Vendors are allowed to bring bottles for the table so you never know what will be on the table. I was saddened by the lack of kids at the show because I do not want the hobby to die out. This is something I hope to improve on in the following year. Overall it was a great show and like always I hope that next year's show is better than the last. Next year it will be in June on the 12th so I hope that y'all make plans to come and, I can't wait to see y'all there.