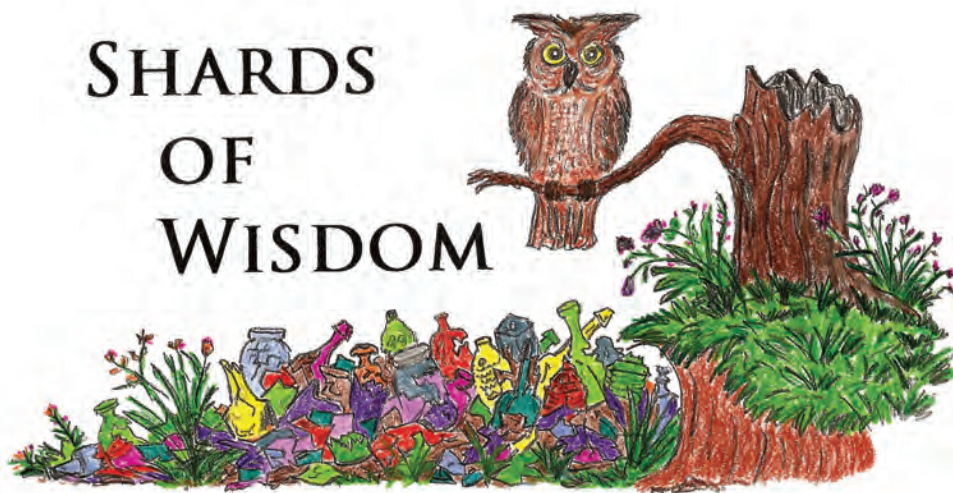


SHARDS OF WISDOM



Health issues force Fletcher to quit as editor after 33 years

By Bill Baab

MUSTANG, Okla. – Thirty-three years ago, Johnnie Fletcher edited his first Oklahoma Territory Bottle & Relic Club newsletter, Oklahoma Territory News, and it was of such high quality that its subscribers looked forward to checking out each issue.

OKLAHOMA TERRITORY NEWS

OKLAHOMA TERRITORY BOTTLE & RELIC CLUB

VOLUME THIRTY THREE, NUMBER ELEVEN

November 2020

FROM THE EDITOR

Let me apologize for this month's newsletter. I had hoped to have a newsletter with new stories for your enjoyment, however, things haven't worked out as I intended.

I told you last month about my prostate cancer had migrated to my bones and I was taking a new treatment for it.

I had another bone scan in October, that showed the cancer was still spreading. My treatment was changed. I was operated on and a port was installed in my chest to allow chemo therapy to begin. My doctor told me that they would do chemo every three weeks. When ask how many treatments would I have, he replied, "As long as it's working or until you decide you don't want any more." I had my first chemo on October 21st.

During the same time, I started chemo, I had to visit the Emergency Room twice. The reason was that I couldn't pee. Now I'm scheduled for a procedure to break up a couple kidney stones on November 11th.

The day after my first chemo I felt pretty

good but since then it's been downhill. Right now I have fatigue, extreme tiredness, inability to concentrate, and nausea. That, plus all the scans, tests, medical visits, etc. have prevented me from getting the November newsletter done.

After giving it much thought I have decided that it would be in my best interest to stop doing the newsletter and turn my attention to doing my medical treatments. Accordingly, after thirty three years, December will be my last newsletter.

I have always enjoyed working on the newsletter and I know it's going to be very weird to not do it each month. I hope you don't think I'm letting you down, I do feel guilty about not giving more notice but my medical conditions just escalated very quickly.

I would like to thank all the people, who helped with the newsletter, over the years.

I hope everyone has enjoyed my poor attempt at producing a digging publication that mostly documents bottle digging with very special friends, I know I've had a great time and wished it had been longer!

OKLAHOMA TERRITORY BOTTLE & RELIC CLUB

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Sadly, the end is in sight with the final issue to come in December.

Fletcher, who was inducted into the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame in 2009, is facing severe health issues having to do with prostate cancer.

The cancer has migrated to his bones and, while he is receiving treatment, "right now I have fatigue, the inability to concentrate and nausea," he said. "I have always enjoyed working on the newsletter and I know it's going to be weird to not do it each month.

"I would like to thank all the people who helped with the newsletter over the years. I know I've had a great time and wished it had been longer, but after giving it much thought, I have decided it would be in my best interest to stop and turn my attention to doing my medical treatments," he explained.

Sodas and Beers of North America sodasandbeers.com

by Tod von Mechow

So you cannot find your bottle listed. I estimate there are 35,000 pre-crown bottles from North America and this site lists only a fraction, but an import group of these bottles. This site lists all of the information that I have available on these bottles. Go back and look at the attributes section of the site to get information on your bottle and use it to complete the "Date Your Bottle" function. Asking me for more information will not yield any additional information.

I am always looking to receive corrections on listed bottles or missing information that fills in holes for bottles where the information is incomplete.

Currently I am only accepting information on "unlisted" North American pre-crown top bottles in the following categories:

- All pontiled bottles
- All cobalt blue bottles
- All primitive pottery bottles
- All pony, soda, drug store, tenpin, torpedo, round bottom, Saratoga, porter, teepee, Saint Louis weiss beer, early export beer, lager, early ale, oyster cocktail, and root beer extract shaped bottles
- All champagne beer bottles in colors other than aqua, amber, or clear
- All Hutchinson bottles in colors other than aqua or clear
- All bottles embossed "cream soda," Cronk, root beer, birch beer, white or weiss beer.
- All bottler suppliers' bottles and salesmen sample bottles
- All bottles with closures that are not documented on this site
- All bottles with closures that did not achieve widespread popularity (Occur on less than 100 bottles)
- All Codd bottles
- All Matthews gravitating stopper bottles
- All North American bottles from outside the United States and Canada
- All bottles from Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming, Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Prince Edwards

Island, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.
All Philadelphia bottles

Email me with your name and contact information, the embossing, shape, dimensions, lip style, closure, color and base type at Todvon@verizon.net. Attaching pictures can be helpful.

If you have what you consider a complete or nearly complete collection of some specific geographic area please contact me at the above email address and I can arrange a formatted way to exchange the information.

As always, I will answer all questions on all pre-crown Philadelphia soda and beer bottles and the bottlers and brewers that used them.

California Trade Marks

by Eric McGuire

BREAKING NEWS!

The California State Archives has finally put its early California Trade Mark files on line for everyone to use. This significant collection of trade marks is truly amazing, and if you have an interest in the history of California bottled products you may just completely miss dinner once you begin browsing the collection. There are a few errors but they are insignificant relative to the importance of this site to bottle collectors and historians of California commercial history.

You will find thousands of bottle related labels from 1861 to the turn of the century, and some will knock your socks off. I implore all bottle collectors to visit this site and invite them to dig a little deeper with what they find, with their results being published articles and vignettes of their research. Such productivity will only contribute to the perpetuation of the hobby which we currently enjoy.

Just go to: [California State Archives](https://www.california.gov/archives)

Here are a couple (images to the right) of examples of the trade marks to be found in the collection - rs -

Examples of paper labeled whiskies from the Bruce Silva collection can be seen here at [Western Whiskey Gazette](#)



HISTORY'S CORNER

In Memory of Dick Watson
longtime FOHBC Historian

By Jim Bender



Glass candy containers were first made in 1876 in the shapes of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

By the early 1900s, many companies were making candy containers with many of them in the shape of animals. They were sold in dime stores, as souvenirs, and even sold by Sears and Roebuck.

Containers made up to 1940 were mainly sealed with metal. During the war, containers were sealed with cardboard and that was continued until the 1950s

Candy containers can be dated many times by the design of the container. Cars, boats, telephones, planes, and many others can be dated by their design.

It must be noted candy containers have been reproduced for years. Most reproductions are in colors but not all.

Watch each issue for a new installment of History's Corner.

