

# Historical Collections

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Sure everyone has seen figural bitters but a complete collection of labeled figural bitters!





A look at what it was like to see behind the counter in the 1880s



Jerry also collected display cases.

Throughout the years, I have been pleased to travel the country with some great bottle collecting friends, especially Bill Mitchell. Bill and I have seen many fantastic collections and have had the opportunity to take photos of them. Sadly, many of these collections no longer exist intact. Thankfully, I still have photos of these collections and enjoy looking at them from time to time as they pop up on my screen saver.

Included in this article is a plea for your assistance in preserving some of these collections through archiving photos and making them available to FOHBC members. I have been as-





Jerry has an assortment of goodies everywhere you look!

signed by the Federation to begin the project of archiving the photos of past collections. I made this suggestion to the Federation and was promptly asked to join the board and spearhead the project by becoming the Second Vice President of the organization, which I accepted. I am happy to be on board.

To initiate the project, what better place to start than the collections belonging to Jerry Phelps. Recently, I contacted Jerry and asked if I could use the photos of his collection to start my project. When I contacted Jerry, I was told that all his collections were gone. They were sent to the auction houses to be sold in the future and the only thing left were his log cabin buildings and an empty building that housed the past collections. If you had a chance to view Jerry's collections, you were among the very privileged few. It was a walk back in time. Terry McMurray's Museum in Binghamton, NY, is the next best thing. Do not pass up a chance to experience this if you are given the opportunity.

I have agreed to undertake several tasks by the



Jerry has created an old time Pharmacy

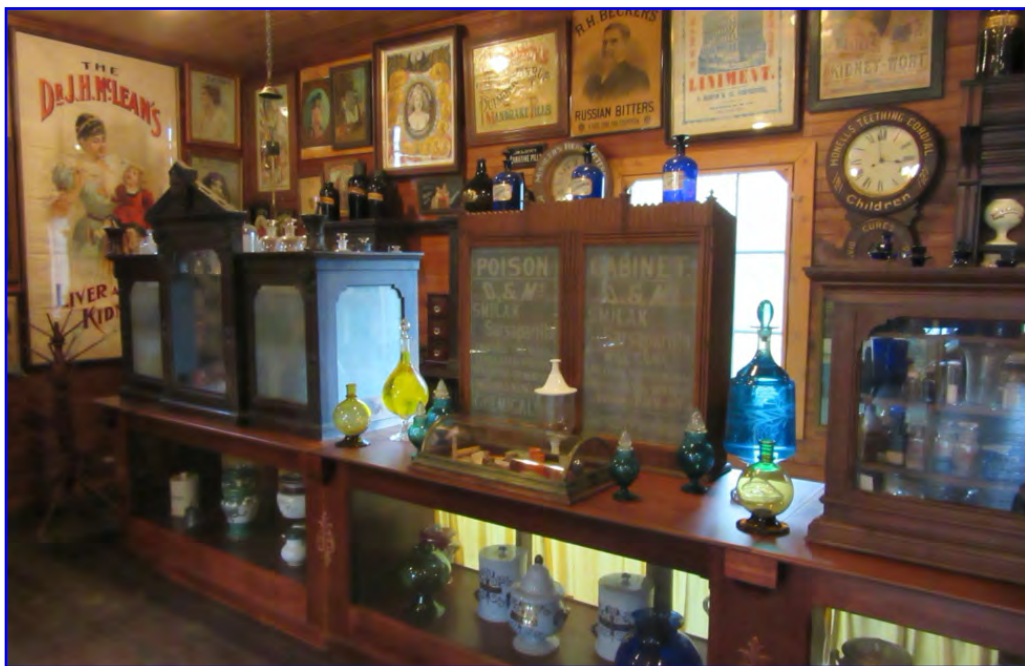




Jerry had an assortment of labeled medicines in original boxes



Jerry's museum consisted of three rooms, a pharmacy, a general store, and one devoted to advertising items. When you visit the archives in the future you will see the massive number of unusual items these walls contained. Wait to be amazed!



Rare and unusual specimens of advertising adorned the walls of the entire 3 rooms of collectables.

Federation. First is to start searchable files of collections large and small, complete and incomplete, past and present. They don't have to be huge, they can be photos of collections from the 1960s, 1970s, etc. Historical memorabilia that might be of interest to everyone in our hobby will be included.

Secondly, I would like to collect photos of past bottle shows, show displays, attendance and sales tables. Preferably photos that will contain collectors that we all know and remember. It is a chance to show off a past time when we were thin and had lots of long hair and wore bell bottom pants. I'll be asking for these photos throughout the next few years.

Thirdly, I am pleased to announce that we have started the task of putting reference books in the Virtual Museum Library. The first books I donated - my 1974 book, *"H.H. Warner His Company and His Bottles"* and the follow-up eBook which has more information on Warner than anyone would ever want. I followed this up with two of my favorite books by Rev. Bill Agee *"Collecting the Cures"* and *"Collecting All Cures."* These four books will be available in the library later this year. I am asking for your suggestions for other books scanned and read. Each book requires us to try to contact the author and get approval to add these books to our library. So, anyone out there who has written a book on bottles, local or nationwide, and you want to have your book included in the Library, please contact me.

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The Federation thanks Jerry Phelps for allowing us to view one last time the pictures of his Museum.

