

FOHBC NEWS



Great Issue

Hi Ferdinand,

Hope you are coming along well with your recovery.

I received the latest issue of *Bottles & Extras* yesterday. I would like to get two more copies of it and also renew my membership. Is it best to call Elizabeth? Or she can call me when it is convenient for her.

Great issue, I am originally from Joliet, Illinois and Marv Juel is a friend so I was elated to see an article about a Joliet bottler. In fact the last two issues have been very good and well done in my humble opinion.

Well, I will quit now, again, hope you are doing well. Too bad there's not much breaking news to watch on TV lately. LOL....

Thanks,

Richard Kramerich
Pensacola, Florida

North Star Bottle Club Newsletter Announcement

Greetings, North Star members. Here's hoping everyone had a safe, healthy, and pleasant Thanksgiving holiday. Seems no matter how we celebrated this year, or with whom, we can count on this Thanksgiving to be memorable!

I am very sad to report that long-time Minnesota bottle collector and good friend Barbara Robertus passed away on November 18. Barb was a great supporter of the hobby. She was a reliable participant at the annual Minnesota bottle show where she often worked at the admission table. Barb also served as Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors secretary back in the 1970s and 80s. Barb's husband Dave, who also served on the FOHBC board, collected Masonic Flasks. Dave passed in 2008.

Looking for a bottle that I saw at the Sacramento

Hi Ferdinand:

I am looking for a bottle that I saw at the Sacramento show a few years ago. My young son expressed an interest in it and unfortunately I made the mistake of ignoring his gentle request.

It would mean a great deal to me should you be able to get the floor layout of that particular show and the respective names of the people at the booths so that I can do some detective work to find the



bottle. As you walked into the main gallery I believe it was off to the right of the center a few booths in. Please forward this email to the appropriate parties so that I can attempt to make up for the mistake I made years ago. Son is leaving for college and making a last ditch effort to inculcate some desire in collecting and bottles.

In addition can you check on the the status of subscription to your magazine. I used to get it and don't remember seeing it lately. Please advise.

Thank you

Sincerely, Chip Houske

McKeever's Army Bitters

Hi, Ferd,

Good afternoon! Re: your recent post about McKeever's Army Bitters, I've always suspected that McKeever's Army Bitters were named in honor Brevet Brigadier General Chauncey McKeever, the son of Commodore McKeever of the United States Navy. He was born in Baltimore, Md. on August 31, 1829, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on July 1, 1849, and eventually retired from active service on August 31, 1893. During his service, he held numerous positions of importance including, quite interestingly, Artillery Instructor to (then Major) W.T. Sherman's command at Washington. General McKeever died September 4, 1901, and is buried in the Chauncey vault, Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. I'd love to hear your feedback on this idea!



Regards, Chris Bubash
Dayton, Ohio

Russ St. Domingo in puce!

Ferdinand,

Found a crier the other day in an 1820 house attic! It is a Russ' St. Domingo bitters in light puce! I collected all the pieces I could find and glued it back together. I don't believe this is a common color for this, do you? The picture is not the best.

Jim Berry
St. Johnsville, NY



Do you Paint the Words?

Hello, Well done on another great issue. Jan/Feb Vol. 32 #1
I am writing in response to what I feel was a lopsided response to a question that was posed on page 6 under FOHBC News.

DO YOU PAINT THE WORDS.

It is a shame that only one side of the answer to that question was printed. Here is an answer from the other side that I feel should have been included prior to going to press.

A word of warning to folks that wish to highlight their bottles: Highlighting the lettering marks one as a pariah in the world of advanced bottle collectors. If your goal is to be one of the boys/girls and you really want to be rubbing elbows with THEM don't highlight. Highlighting is my personal preference and over the years I've been treated as a sort of outcast, which doesn't bother me. I like highlighting as it makes the lettering easier to see regardless of where the bottle is displayed. I have done this for nearly 40 years and have no plans on quitting. Yes, Mr. Meyer the V, I am an "OLDER" collector, but the trend I have seen among the younger collectors is toward ACL sodas, Deco sodas and highlighting.

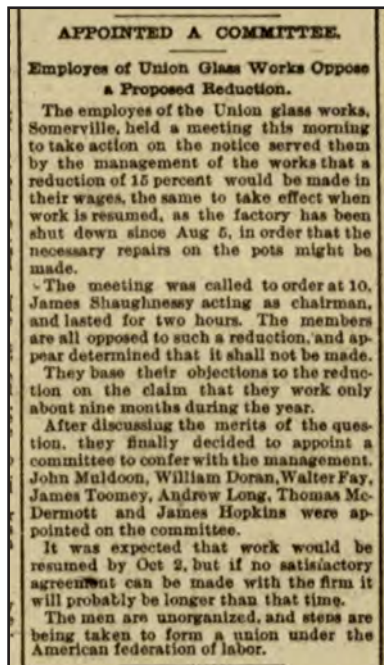
Over the years I have been slightly abused by some of these anti-paint folks who were negative and vocal against my practice even when they didn't need to be. It's just a bottle, it's just glass and it can all be easily reversed. If someone decides to highlight or not to highlight either way I don't mind and I for one won't shun them or the highlighted bottles.

Have a great rest of the day and even better tomorrows.
Peace and blessings.

Deacon R. Bruce Mobley

Tough Times

The panic of 1893 caused economic havoc in the United States. As many as 500 banks and 15,000 businesses failed. Needless to say that the industrial sector was hit hard, and that included glass works. This newspaper article is an example of the impact on American workers. It is never a popular solution to reduce the wages of workers but that is what was proposed by the owners of the Union Glass Works in Somerville, Maine. Remarkably, the workers met the following



November and acquiesced in their position, for fear of the factory not opening after its usual summertime maintenance shut down.

The news article should be captioned with the publication data.
Boston Daily Globe, September 20, 1893.

-Anonymous



Meet Fred DeCarlo, Northeast Regional Director

Fred DeCarlo, FOHBC Northeast Region Director. Fred DeCarlo was born and grew up in Utica, New York. He is currently a firefighter/EMT with the City of Utica Fire Department and has been with them for 20 years.

He is married to his wife of 15 years, Curry McMahon-DeCarlo, and they have two children together. His bottle interest began over 20 years ago but really picked up steam in the last five years.

He collects bottles from Utica, New York and does research on them as he loves local history. He recently started a website "Utica Bottle Directory" dedicated to Utica bottles.

He is vice president of The Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club and also co-editor of their newsletter. He is also an avid privy digger, dump digger and metal detectorist. Exploring and researching are his favorite pastimes.

A short but true story about my collecting experience.

Collecting on a Budget: "Blue Collar Collecting"

I often referred to myself as a "Blue Collar Collector". I work as a firefighter with younger children and generally can not buy rare bottles that I would love to own. That being said I dig privys and try to find those hard to reach bottles.

Sometimes I reach out and talk to fellow privy diggers and col-



Here is the before and after Photos.

lectors. A lot of collectors only enjoy pristine bottles etc. My thoughts were always history trumps condition or value. I will take any Utica bottle that I do not currently have and maybe someday I will find a replacement.

Honestly, on my shelves there are just as many broken bottles as mint ones. Well, one day I found a collector who had two very scarce 1880s Utica blob beers. He was going to get rid of them as they had no value and were ugly from privy staining with some damage. I was extremely grateful when this collector offered them to me. (Kid at Christmas is more accurate).

I took these two bottles, soaked them, washed them and started a process of tumbling 5 days with a 1200 grit cutter and 3 days of a polish. I then found a couple of donor lightning stoppers and transplanted them to hide the lip blemishes.

Attached (Above Photo) is my photo of the transformation. From hideous to beauty and awesome additions to my shelf at very little expense. Sorry if this was long, just wanted to share.



As we ask the door to not hit 2020 on its rear end as we move

on to 2021, we are all hopeful for a better new year which is not setting the bar too high. We are already seeing cancellations and postponements to shows for 2021, but I am staying optimistic.

The backbone of our hobby is the local clubs in my opinion. They are great resources of knowledge and of course their shows are the bomb. It is time for clubs to think outside the box to survive this pandemic. In-person meetings with masks and social distancing is the best case scenario right now but if that is not possible, virtual meetings on Zoom or similar are great alternatives. I have been lucky enough to sit in on two 1st Chicago Bottle Club Zoom meetings and they were great experiences. An option that I have seen work great in the Breweriana hobby is virtual shows where members post pictures and prices on social media to buy sell and trade between themselves. I participated in one last weekend and was able to pick up some nice new items for my Pabst and Bock collections.

If the local clubs are the backbone of our hobby then I think that the glue holding these clubs together right now are the newsletters and social media outlets. I receive several club newsletters from around the Midwest and belong to several of their Facebook pages or visit their websites and love it. It truly lets me reach out over many miles and stay in touch and see what is happening from Kansas to Michigan to Iowa and everywhere in between. To all the hard working editors out there, keep up the great work - Kudos. To the club members posting on social media - keep showing your finds and asking your questions. The more we can come together virtually now the stronger we will be when it's finally safe to be face to face again.

You are all essential workers to our hobby.



I would first and foremost like to introduce myself as the new kid on the block. I recently took the position over as Northeast Regional Director from my friend Jeff Ullman. Since meeting Jeff, I have always admired his knowledge and love of the hobby so I know they are big shoes to fill. The bottle collecting and digging hobby is one of great interest to me. I took this position as a way of hopefully contributing to the hobby and furthering it in any manner possible.

I have sent out emails to all the clubs that are in the Northeast region. I have received a few responses but hope to have more to come. I would encourage clubs to please keep me informed on happenings with your local clubs so I may relay these on to the rest of the membership. I understand it is a difficult time for us all currently with many shows and meetings cancelled for the time

being but hopefully with time we will begin returning to a more normal agenda.

If anyone would like to contact me I would love to hear from fellow collectors and diggers. Let's keep this great hobby moving forward!



The continued covid related lock-down has still had a significant effect on bottle collecting activity in the West. A good number



Posted by Rebecca Ann Thacker is this photo of some amazing liquor containers recently dug in a privy in Missouri. And these were just the intact specimens.

of collectors have resorted to social media to stay in touch with others of the same interest. The Facebook site, California Antique



More proof that bottles are still being dug. This post by Jason Yanez is from a 'Covid Period' privy dig.



From the collection of Dale and Barbara Santos, a grouping of blue demijohns.

Bottles currently has about 640 bottle collectors interacting with each other. Certainly not contained to just the western region, this group is keeping a good number of people from going crazy during this time. I have even seen some items this collector of over sixty years has not previously encountered. Some collectors are even sharing new digging activity, which is a real treat, and covering an area from Hawaii to Missouri.

This is one time that the virtual world has helped assuage the frustration caused by the current pandemic, and if you want to see some pretty bottles I strongly suggest a peek.



Jan. 23, 2021: Jackson, Miss. Show – I did not hear from its chairman, but some who went reported there were 230 sales tables, about half of what it was last year. Missing were about half the vendors who attended last year's show. Foot traffic was good, but sales were mixed – some good, others not so much.

Jan. 29-30, 2021: Cedartown, Ga. Show – Report on Facebook and comments from some who attended said about three-fourths of the dealers from the previous year's show were in attendance. There were a lot of great bottles traded or sold on Friday, first day of the show. Foot traffic was light on Saturday, but those who attended were there to buy. The show occupied two buildings, with vendors selling gas and oil signs in one and bottles in the other. The De Funiak Springs, Fla. Show set for Feb. 6 was canceled. However, the Breweriana Advertising & Collectibles Show in Navarre, Fla., is still set for May 15 and so is the Pee Dee Bottle Show in Darlington, S.C., next Nov. 21. Other upcoming shows include the Central Texas Show Feb. 27 in Round Rock, the Mobile Bottle Show April 2-3, the Daphne, Ala., Show April 10 and the S.C. Bottle Show in Columbia April 17. Check the Show Biz Calendar of Shows and Related Events in this issue.