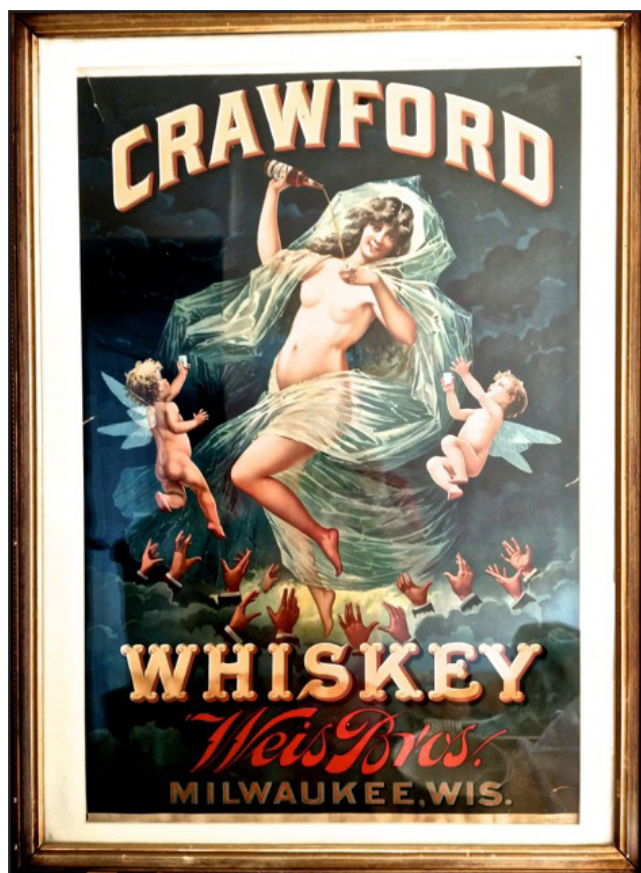


# FOHBC NEWS

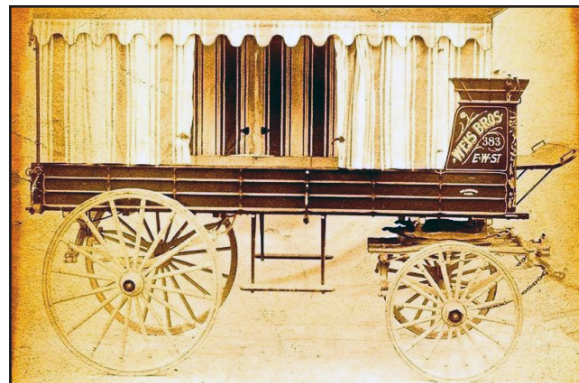


## A New Find Behind a Barnyard

FOHBC: Recently I received an email from Jay Sebastian of Wood Dale, Illinois, with the photo of the Weis Bros. saloon poster below. This is what Jay wrote: "The story is that this came from my grandfather's bar in Milwaukee in the twenties. My mother and then I always had a lithograph of a wholesome barnyard scene in this frame. Recently I disassembled the frame and found the poster underneath the barnyard picture in pristine condition. Grandma must have thought it was too scandalous and hid



almost immediately upon their arrival in town, adding: "...From the start [they] met the most advanced requirements of the trade, thus developing a widely extended and growing patronage."



Their sales area was said to include not only Wisconsin but states in the Upper Midwest and as distant as the Dakotas and Montana.

The brothers had a knack for creativity in advertising their liquor. Note for example, their horse-drawn delivery wagon. Many liquor companies had such conveyances. Most often they were strictly utilitarian with little or no ornamentation. By contrast the Weis Bros. van is covered with colorful cotton drapery with a scalloped fringe on top and the name prominently emblazoned on a lacquered fender. This wagon definitely would have drawn notice as it clattered through the streets of Milwaukee.

Because the Weis Bros. liquor house was forced to cease business with the coming of National Prohibition, Jay's poster would be at least 100 years old. My thanks to him for permitting me to bring it to this find to a wider audience.

Jack Sullivan  
Arlington, Virginia

## Bluff City Coca-Cola

Dear FOHBC: I thought maybe your News section would be interested in this.



it a long time ago. I think it is a unique archaeological discovery."

It is a fabulous find. In four decades of seeking out pre-Prohibition saloon signs and collecting their images, I had never seen this one before. I always hesitate to say any whiskey artifact is a "one of a kind" but this one comes close. Posters like this were deemed too risqué after Repeal. Because this one has been hidden beyond another picture for almost a century, it has no rips, tears or fading.

The Weis Brothers, Carl and William, emigrated from Germany in 1868 and settled in Milwaukee about 1879. Their earlier locations and occupations are unrecorded, but they almost certainly already were accomplished in the whiskey trade. An 1896 biography of their firm noted that they had started their liquor house

Mike Cothorn, a local Memphis bottle digger, gave me this broken bottle. It is a Bluff City Manufacturing bottle circa 1912. The Bluff City Bottling and Bluff City Manufacturing bottles are one of the most common bottles you would dig in a dump in this area. What is amazing is this one has Coca-Cola in script on the bottom. What is also interesting is that Coca-Cola had a law suit against Bluff City because of one of Bluff City's bottles.

It is an amber soda embossed "Koke," a direct rip off the Coke name. No way Coke would have any dealings with Bluff City. I assume the bottle company that made the bottle made a mistake and somehow put a bottom slug plate with Coca-Cola on it. I know of no complete examples of this bottle but sure would like to have one. You wonder how many of these got made before they caught the mistake.

Ron Pevahouse  
Memphis, Tenn.

## Juanne Herrold

Hello FOHBC Members: My mother, Juanne Herrold, (Jan. 22, 1933 - Nov. 4, 2020), passed away this past November after a prolonged illness. Her and my late father, Ed Herrold, were both avid bottle collectors and I remember how involved they were with your association and all the bottle shows they could get to!

Please feel free to post about her passing to your members, she so missed attending the shows with my dad and seeing all their bottle friends!

Thank You,  
Eric Herrold

## Actual Painting From 1918

Dear Members, here is a painting I came across and just had to share. Looks like a small collection

Chris Hartz  
Arroyo Grande, California



## Mystery Dock Blood Purifier

Dear FOHBC: Hoping all is well! I wanted to reach out to submit a letter to the editor as time and space permit in an upcoming Bottles & Extras.

This mystery Dock Blood Purifier has stumped me since receiving it in a small collection purchase last October from an Etsy seller in Canning, Nova Scotia and one of the first blood cures I purchased. So far I have not found a single reference to a Dr. Norton [other than the one of the Tasteless Worm Destroyer fame] in any bottle reference book or electronic database.

This bottle is certainly on the larger size at 9 3/8" tall and base at 3 3/8" x 2" and made with a round post-bottom mold. It is embossed: DR. NORTON'S / DOCK BLOOD / PURIFIER  
Does anyone know anything of Dr. Norton or his Dock Blood



Purifier they could share?

Thank you,  
Zac Mirecki  
Hartford, Connecticut

## Texas Blob Soda Found with a Little Color

Ferdinand: Dug this weekend...one of only a couple "colored" blob sodas from Texas and as far as I am aware only the second intact example of this bottle dug in this color (they come in a standard aqua color as well, though also very rare). Over the moon!

Best Regards,  
Brandon DeWolfe, P.E.  
Houston Texas

**PRG:** Henry Cortes established the H. W. Cortes & Co Texas Bottling Works in 1860, manufacturing syrup,





soda, sarsaparilla, ginger ale, mineral water, beer, and ales. He was also a real estate investor and on the building committee of the German Presbyterian Church. The family lived at 32nd and Avenue N.

## George Gemunden

Dear Editor: I am Megan Shew and I live in Savannah Georgia. We bought our historic ~1884 Victorian row house back in December 2019 and I've been very interested in the history of it and its previous owners. While doing a routine google search about who it was built for George Gemunden (sometimes spelled Gemenden, Gemeunden) I found your group, The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. Your May-June 2021 issue did a 6



page spread on his bottles and bottling endeavors. I am floored at how well researched and informative the article is. I have struggled to find information about Gemunden and am so happy to have stumbled upon the newsletter. I would really love to thank the writer David Kyle Rakes.

There was a whole row that was built for Gemunden and we aren't quite sure why. Maybe he housed some of his family or workers? When we first started working on the house (fixing wood rot, HVAC, etc.), we stumbled on MANY antique bottles in the crawl space area. We shined them up and happily display them in the house, unknowing of all the historical significance.

I was hoping I could order a copy (or a couple of copies) of the publication (May-June 2021) so we can frame and display the issue in our house. I really want y'all to know how much I appreciate your group for helping us learn and thought you might get a kick out of our crawl space finds.

Thanks,  
Megan Shew  
Savannah, Georgia

## New FOHBC Zoom Seminar Series

The foundation of the FOHBC is education. It is part of our Mission Statement. Of course we do it in the magazine and very effectively at national event seminars. How can we take this new world that was accelerated and thrust upon us and use it to our advantage?



The FOHBC will be setting up monthly 1-hour Zoom Seminars on a broad range of topics relating to antique bottle and glass collecting. Our schedule will be published several months out. The seminars are free to FOHBC members who will be sent an invite to each seminar with instructions on how to

attend with your computer or laptop, etc.. This could be a person showcasing their collection, talking about a certain bottle niche, bottle and proprietor stories or topics such as digging etc. Visual format can be PDF or Power-Point, etc. Each seminar will be 1 hour or less. We will use the FOHBC Zoom account and introduce the guest speaker and presenter each session. Account for 10 or 15 minutes of questions and answers. Please send your request and topic to Michael Seeliger, [mwseeliger@gmail.com](mailto:mwseeliger@gmail.com) or Ferdinand Meyer V, [fmeyer@fmgdesign.com](mailto:fmeyer@fmgdesign.com). Stay tuned for more information. These seminars will occur at 7:00 pm CST unless otherwise noted.

Midwest Region  
Steve Lang  
[slang14@yahoo.com](mailto:slang14@yahoo.com)



I feel optimism growing as fast as the grass grows in the spring. I think we may be starting to move towards a new normal that will not require masks and social distancing. The clubs in the Midwest are having more and more in-person club meetings, and those meetings are talking about having shows again! It has been a long time coming folks so lets get out and enjoy it this summer.

We have all changed over that last 18 months due to the pandemic. I for one did not know what Zoom was other than a word to describe going fast, and now I attend Zoom meetings like a pro knowing how to mute when my dogs bark and unmute before starting to speak. The Zoom or Teams or whatever software used allows members to attend meetings that may not have been able to otherwise and I see this as staying a part of the local club meetings going forward. The Ohio Bottle Club is currently doing a Zoom meeting for distant members and guests the week prior to their in-person club meeting. I was only able to jump on for the end of their last meeting due to a previous commitment, but I see this as a great idea.

April 18th was the Kansas Territory Bottle & Postcard Club's 14th annual show in Hutchinson, Kansas, and it was a great success. Please see article in this edition of Bottles & Extras for more details.

May 8th was the Ohio Bottle Club's 42nd annual Mansfield Antique Bottle Show held at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, Ohio. Matt Lacy and Louis Fifer did another great job putting on the show. The show was a sell out and included vendors outside in the windy and cold conditions. In talking with vendors, all that I spoke with said they were having a good show

and sales were good.

Upcoming Midwest shows include June 12th – 7th Annual Cambridge City Antique Jar & Bottle show in Cambridge City, Indiana and June 19th -51st annual Kiowa Antique Bottlelers Antique Bottles & Collectibles Show in Johnston, Iowa

In closing, get out and find that new treasure for your collection and be safe doing it. The hobby has lost a lot of members during the past 18 months for lots of reasons. I don't want to lose any of you going forward.

Stay safe and happy collecting



Things are finally starting to ramp up and it is exciting, with in-person shows and bottle club meetings starting to take place all over our region. I attended my first show in May in New Jersey. It was held outdoors, and I came across many fellow diggers.

Of interest in the near future is the Saratoga Springs show set for June 6 at Ballston Spa, N.Y. Then the Historical Bottle Diggers of Virginia will hold their show June 10, followed by the Little Rhody Bottle Club show on June 20. Please remember to send in show contracts as soon as possible.

I encourage everyone to not only support their own club events, but others and the FOHBC show as well.



There may be some light at the end of the Covid tunnel here in the Western Region. The nasty stuff has brought most social activities to a halt in California; however, with the current rate of inoculations our western residents are witnessing a vast improvement over new cases, and there is positive talk of regular club meetings and even shows. Our governor will be lifting most social gathering restrictions on June 15; however, I suspect it will take awhile for local authorities to follow suit.

The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club may be the first California organization to host a show with some degree of normality. It is scheduled for September 11, 2021, in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Check the club's newsletter, The Whittlemark, on the Internet and skillfully wrought by its editor, Dave Maryo, who was previously the FOHBC Western Region Director.

Cherry Simi of Downieville, California, wife of our departed friend, Rick Simi, has decided to resurrect the show/sale that the couple successfully held for a number of years until Rick's death on March 19, 2020. Most of us have a level of confidence that the pandemic will largely be a thing of the past by the time the Downieville show is held on September 18, 2021.

At the northern end of our region the Oregon Bottle Collectors Association will be hosting its show at the usual location in the charming little town of Aurora, Oregon. It will be held on September 17 and 18, so lots of bottle action is to be had in the West in September. Be sure and keep up to date on these and other possible shows at [fohbc.org/shows/](http://fohbc.org/shows/).

I expect all these shows will be heavily attended as the local world charges back to its former self.



Dealers from five southern states filled 166 tables, according to Marty Vollmer, co-chairman with Eric Warren, of the South Carolina Bottle Club show in Columbia. It was held in a new spacious venue and was a vendors only setup. "We are hoping to have at least 200 dealers at our show next year on April 23," he added.

The last time I was there was in 1984. It's about a 5-hour drive from where I live in Auburn, Ala., not a bad trip except having to go through Atlanta on I-20.

This year, dealers featured a wide variety of bottles from the pontiled variety to applied color labels. Sodas, flasks, bitters, patent medicines and mineral waters were joined by many examples of southern stoneware. I was able to purchase a half-pint flask plus a 3-gallon alkaline-glazed rye jug from Alabama for my collection. I also bought a very nice cobalt blue Blount Springs mineral water for a bargain price.

Bill and Toni Garland also attended, and Bill found a Landrum brick from the same Edgefield District, S.C. pottery family.

Veteran Alabama collector Tom Lines said he was very pleased and congratulated Vollmer who did a great job in promoting the one-day show.

This Southern Region, editor has started a Facebook group to help keep southern shows and their chairmen connected. The idea is to help promote the shows and give pointers to chairmen. It's called "Southern Bottle Antique and Collectibles Shows."