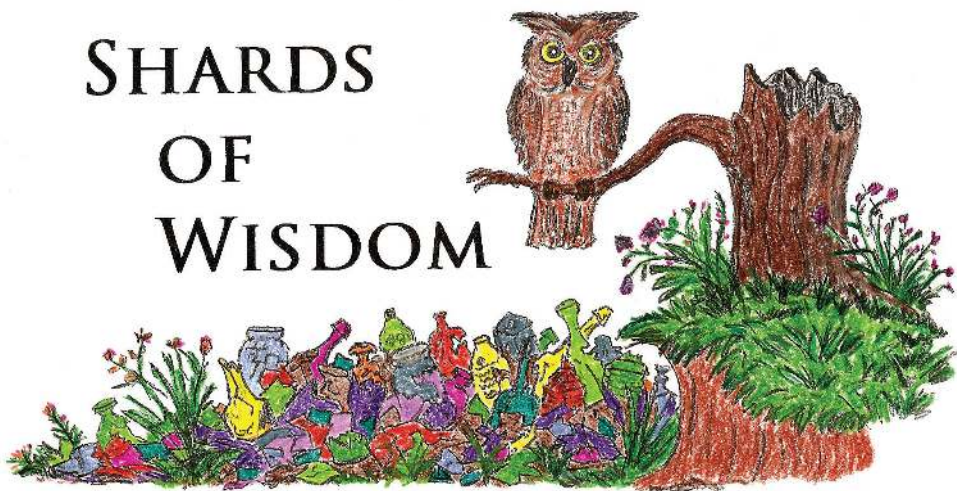


SHARDS OF WISDOM



Author adds 15,637 more words to growing Coca-Cola book piles

By Bill Baab

Has anyone ever given much serious thought to the number of words in books about Coca-Cola and the company's bottles published during the last 50 years? They must be in the millions, if not billions.

Antique bottle collector and researcher Dennis Smith, who originally hails from Alabama, but now lives in Buffalo, New York, is the "owner" of several thousand of those words found in the pages of his 2016 book, *Kola Wars: Atlanta*, and others.

His latest book, *Coca-Cola in Alabama, the Bottlers: Albany to York*, added 15,637 more words to the accumulations. I know he has been working on this book since long before early 2019, because he was hoping to finish it before the FOHBC National Show held in Augusta, Georgia in October of that year.

This 119-page, well-illustrated book details the histories and key people of Coca-Cola bottlers in no less than 95 big cities and small towns located in "The Heart of Dixie."

One thing I have learned through my friendship with Dennis over the last few decades is that he is thorough in his research, as he details in the book's introduction. Rather than repeat his words, I will let you discover the ways and means leading to the not-so-finished product.

As he concludes, "the story will never be complete so this will have to suffice until the next person comes along."

Complementing the text are line drawings of each community's bottles from the straight-sided era (1902-1914) through the hobblekirt years, plus variants such as the CC Soda bottle, the slug plates, the soda waters, plus a listing of each in what the author calls his "Bottle Matrix."

There also are copies of Coca-Cola's early advertisements from newspapers and other publications, photos of early bottling plants, delivery trucks and more. Color photos of various bottles decorate the front and back covers.

This latest book costs \$30 and can be ordered through his website: www.KolaWars.com and please add \$3 media mail shipping charges.

Kansas Territory Bottle & Postcard Show

By Steve Lang

The Kansas Territory Bottle & Postcard Club held their 14th annual show on April 18th at the Kansas State Fairgrounds' Sunflower Building in Hutchinson, Kansas.



John Panek talking with dealers at the Kansas City Show

My wife Dawn and I were lucky enough to be able to make the 10 hour trip from Indianapolis to attend the show. It was well worth the trip. Mike McJunkin and Mark Law put on a great show.

The Saturday evening set up included dinner at 6 p.m. from



Display of glass turtles by Henry Helfin



Display of Insulators by Bob Schwartz



Display of fire grenades by Henry Tankersley

Chick-Fil-a then a presentation on the Goat Gland Doctor J.R. Brinkley of Melvern, Kan. by Jerry Harper. Brinkley became famous for transplanting goat glands as a cure for flagging male virility patients, owning and operating a radio station and running for Kansas governor. Mr. Harper did a great job with the presentation.



Cabin Fever display by Jack Mullin

The show opened at 9 a.m. on Sunday with customers waiting to be let in. The crowd was faced with fun task of navigating the sold-out show and choosing from all the great items for sale. Vendors were selling stoneware, ACL sodas, beers, whiskies, postcards, advertising and all types of go-withs. The Sunflower Building is a great venue for a bottle show with lots of light to show off the glass. There were 6 display tables set up showcasing some very impressive personal collections including a Krogman Whiskey display by Mark Law. I was very surprised to drive to Kansas and see a Krogman display on a manufacturer from my home state - Tell City, Indiana. The other displays included Henry Tankersley's Leech Bowls, Fire Extinguisher Grenades & Target Balls, Jack Mullin's Cabin Fever, Mike McJunkin's G.W. Merchant display with mineral water & gargling oil, Henry Helfin's end of day glass turtles and Bob Schwartz's insulator display. The show closed at 3 p.m. with reports of good sales to the public and

HISTORY'S CORNER

In Memory of Dick Watson
longtime FOHBC Historian

By Jim Bender

Back in the 70s when I first started digging old bottles at our local dump, I would always find clear base, embossed bottles marked LEE." It would drive me crazy finding these - there were hundreds of them. Later, as many years passed, I found out the embossing "LEE," stood for William W. Lee and Company. The company was founded in 1874 in Green Island, N.Y. Within a few years, the company was moved to Watervliet, N.Y. The bottles contained a product called, "Save the Baby." This bottle was mainly sold in N.Y state but did have some sales in Massachusetts. They must have sold thousands of bottles, which was a medicine for Croup and Colds. I know - I dug a ton of these little clear bottles. So the next time you see a small oval clear bottle with the word "LEE," on the base, remember it is a "Save the Baby" bottle.



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



Display of Krogman distillery by Mark Law

between the club members and other vendors.

My wife and I had a great time the entire weekend and came home with some nice items, many memories and a strong feeling of hospitality from the host club and all its members.

There were 46 dealers from 13 states, 93 tables, and 6 displays.

