

FOHBC NEWS



Bottles and Extras; Chris Hartz Article

Kudos to Chris Hartz on his outstanding article "Bottle Collecting A Chautauqua" in the January-February 2019 edition. Chris's insightful and well-written article was one of the best I have seen anywhere in many, many years. It was revealing, intriguing and educational all at the same time. Chris peeled back the onion skin on the historic path of a specific bottle, the likes of which I have not seen elsewhere, in a written fashion that captivated my attention and imagination from start to finish. This is the type of article that reveals the rich history in the hobby. Nice Going!!!

Jeff Todd
Boerne, Texas

History of Hires Root Beer

Hi, Martin.

Yesterday I announced the publication of Hires to You! The Illustrated History of Hires Root Beer. This extensive history has been published as HiresBook.com, a web site with free public access. In addition to text based on primary resources, the site contains over 2,000 high resolution images. For details about the evolution of this project, please see the Home page comments:

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Informational Websites

Hello Martin:

I read your recent article with much interest and would like to add what I can to one of your future releases. Over the past 10 years or so I have written a number of books and articles for local collectors. During the research process I used a number of resources such as: Sanborn maps, city directories, familysearch.org (free) and newspapers.com (subscription). I tried the local library and state archives route for years with much wasted time and energy. The online options are far better and available to all. Many local and state wide libraries have digitized records of all types.

In addition to supplying you with the sources used, I can supply supporting images of documents, ads and articles. Example attached.

Let me know what you think and your time frame.

David Tingen

Check out this month's Shards to see what David contributed.

Ebner Bros.

Hi Elizabeth,

Yes, both of us were thrilled with the article on the Ebner Bros. Neither one of us had a photo of Frank Ebner, he is my 2nd great granduncle and Marilyn's great-grandfather. We both replied to the author about how pleased we were by all of his research and photos - most of the information was new to us!

Carole Sobke

Genesee Bottle Club celebrating 50th year

By John DeVolder - Club President, Historian

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – The Genesee Valley Bottle Collectors Association this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has marked the milestone with a special and colorful club calendar.

"When Burton Spiller and I decided to play host to an informal meeting in the fall of 1968 to see what kind of support for a bottle club in the Rochester area, we could not have imagined the outstanding response.

"It was a different world in our hobby back then. There were very few bottle books in existence; in fact, there was little information during the pre-computer age. Bottle clubs were the places to learn information from other collectors. We fed off one another.

"Our club's first meeting was held on Jan. 3, 1969 at the home of Hank and Virginia Gesell and was attended by 10 people. Our second meeting on Jan. 16 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Penfield, N.Y., attracted 27 people. I chaired the first two meetings.

"It was during the third meeting, also at the church on Feb. 20, that we chose our club's name and elected our first slate of officers. There were 54 people present. Then we went all out with our first public meeting at the Penfield Town Hall on March 20. We were surprised and pleased when 146 bottle enthusiasts attended. What a start!





Genesee Bottle Club celebrating 50th year. A summer picnic in 1971, hosted by the Bowman's.

Standing, L to R: Jan Frank, Better DeVolder, Dave DeVolder, Dot Villard, Jean Welmut, Jerry Frank, Jack Stecher, Bruce Welmut, Burt Spiller, Joe DiTucci. Kneeling, L to R: Dick Bowman, Ev Bowman, Audrey Stecher, Mary Jane DiTucci, Joe Villard, Hank Gesell, Jean Battin, John DeVolder.

"Greg Cooke, a past president of the Empire State Bottle Collectors Association, presented our club's first program. Our first raffle was held with the winner taking home a Warner's Tippecanoe bottle. The Empire club was founded in 1965 in Syracuse and was the first club east of the Mississippi River.

"John Guttenberg Jr., was our club president, with Jack Stecher vice president, Nancy Hopper secretary and Allen D. Moore treasurer. Joe DiTucci was named membership chairman, overseeing 81 families and 134 individuals. An education committee was formed with John Martinelli filling the pages of our newsletter, *Applied Seals*, with a treasure trove of information."

Then the U.S. Army drafted DeVolder, who had edited the first two newsletter issues and whose two years of service took him away from the club. But his brother, Dave, who had been drafted earlier, took over the newsletter editorship. Dave and his wife, Betty, attended the Antique Bottle Club of California convention in Sacramento and later gave a slide talk to his club.

The Genesee club held its first summer picnic on June 8, 1969 at the Burgandy Basin Inn, with horseshoes, softball and more with a hot and cold buffet and unlimited beer available, all for \$3 per person.

The club's membership continued to grow, with Edmund and Jayne Blaske and Dick and Elma Watson becoming members. There were 237 collectors present when Spiller gave a talk about patent medicine kings of Rochester. Martinelli and Stecher played host to

a show in Rochester on Oct. 26 and 400 people showed up. Crawford Wettlaufer presented a slide program entitled "Early American Bottles and Flasks as seen from the Wettlaufer Collection," which was among the outstanding collections of historical American flasks at the time.

"Our individual membership soon numbered more than 500 with some 200 showing up at monthly club meetings," recalled John DeVolder, who was joined several years ago by Nancy Hopper, Dave DeVolder, Virginia Gesell, Charlie and Wilda Owen and John Martinelli in receiving the club executive board's citations "for unique contributions to the advancement of the GVBCA."

Calendars are available for \$10 postpaid from DeVolder, 166 Haley Road, Ontario, NY 14519.

To everything A Time

An editorial, "To everything A Time" appeared in the February 1972 issue of "Applied Seals". It was written by John Tibbitts. (Does this have validity today for all of our bottle clubs?)

"Twelve years ago the Antique Bottle Collectors Association was formed in California. Until this time there was no club in the United States, few books or publications on bottles, and no way for one collector to meet another. This club grew to include over 2000 family members in the U.S., and their newsletter--*The Pontil*--became one of the better publications in the field. As more clubs organized, membership in A.B.C.A. understandably

dropped, until now in 1972 the club can no longer afford to publish and exchange their excellent newsletter with clubs all over the country.

So we flourished, we prospered, we learned how to put on shows and conventions, how to put on informative meetings, and how to produce *he Pontil*.

During that growing-up period we were continually answering letters asking how to form a bottle club. At first we replied by personal letter and later by sending them a copy of our constitution and bylaws. We always felt that this was where the fun was, in belonging to a local club.

Now we have just about gone full circle...Remember, there is no longer a need for a nation-wide club because of all the other clubs, there is no longer a need for a big informative *Pontil* because of all of the books, magazines, papers, articles and columns.

Yep, just about full circle and as the old Green River Whiskey ad says, 'No Regrets'. A.B.C.A. should be proud of all of its officers past and present, of its shows and conventions and all of their committees, of all the contributors to the PONTIL, and to the enthusiastic membership which made the whole thing gel. Yes, we led the way and showed the way and there are many throughout the U.S. who were in the hobby early in the game who know this is so. BE PROUD OF IT."

So, Lets' address the elephant in the room. ALL clubs are suffering from decreased membership, and I do mean all clubs-whether it is a fraternal group, social group, or a collecting group, such as a bottle club. Membership is in general our senior citizens. The younger generation simply does not seem interested in committing to a few hours socializing with people of like interests. They can find out what they question on the internet, and if they want to receive another opinion, why call and talk to someone when you can text?

Have all bottle clubs run full circle? When was the last time your club had a new person holding office? With membership down, there are fewer people willing to do the work of running a club. Do you have an answer? Yes, new and younger membership, more participation, but how?

Is the time coming when your club states it has no regrets? Be Proud of it!

John DeVolder

Peerless Saloon, Austin

I am so sorry to hear Dr. Van Brocklin passed away. I just found an article online that he wrote in 2005 about an interesting pumpkinseed flask that had been brought to his attention from Austin Nev. and shown with the article. Its white, red and black paper shield-shaped label showed the wording "from the Peerless Saloon, Austin, Nevada. Jack Dunstan, Prop." The 5 oz. bottle itself had a small amount of purpling. Since my husband's family were early (1865) residents of Austin, when visiting there 15 years ago

we bought it as a souvenir, not really believing it was authentic. Is there any way the FOHBC can learn if it was actually authentic or a replica?

Thank you for anyone else you can suggest that I can contact.

Joyce Lawrence, 28571 Road P, Dolores CO 81323, (970) 882-2636, rjl@fone.net

Hi Joyce,

Sure, send me a few pictures. I can authenticate it for you. Will need pictures of the neck mold seam and base as well.

All the best, Matt Lacy

Matt, thanks for your quick reply!

I will have to take some photos, but I am attaching a seemingly identical view from the FOHBC 2005 article I found online, the bottle being Figure 7, on the left. The label is the same; there are mold seams on the right and left of the neck up through the opening. No other observed seams on the pumpkinseed bottle. At the bottom is embossed NET CONT NTS 5 OZ. (Contents missing an E.) The base is like the photo, with an oval under it with possible printing I am unable to decipher.

Volunteers in our historical society have also been identifying bottles we received in an estate gift, so tomorrow I will see if any of us can read the bottom.

FYI, I have found some info on a miner John Dunstan living in Austin Nev. who in its 1910 census was listed as a saloon proprietor. He died there in 1920.

This is making me hoping for another trip to Austin NV, though our pioneer family contacts have now passed away. Thank you, Matt.

Joyce Lawrence

Sonnenschein's Saloon in Pine Bluff Arkansas

Mr. Van Zant,

I'm emailing you today about Larry Childers who was the subject of an article in your July-August issue. One of the jugs featured is from Sonnenschein's Saloon in Pine Bluff Arkansas which was formerly owned by my wife's Great-Great-Grandfather, Marcus Sonnenschein (it's her Grandmother's Grandfather so I think that's right!). I would love to get in touch with Mr. Childers to see if he would be willing to sell that jug as it would be something that my wife's family would be absolutely thrilled to possess. Would it be possible for you to put me in touch with him? Thank you!

Best, Andrew GoldStone

Happy New Year to all

Other than the fact that it's an uncharted historical flask

Recently added to the collection after spending many years in the care of 2 very good friends, both enjoyed it for several years in their collections. Other than the fact that it's an uncharted historical flask, here is what I know so far....

I recently found out that an example of this flask was dug about 40 years ago by the late Dale Steele from Alton Illinois. He dug it in Zanesville Ohio at the site of the Zanesville Glassworks. The site was exposed by a highway installation and Dale spent 2 weeks at the site.



Fast forward about 10-15 years.....

This flask was purchased from the late and great Elvin Moody in Sept of 1993 out of his the trunk of his car during the Patterson sale at Garths.

When I got the flask it still had the dirt under the ring lip and dirt between the letters. So it is unknown if this is the same example that was dug in Zanesville all those years ago. I would bet it is as I have never seen a mention of another example. Although, I would not be surprised if another turned up one day. Enjoy!



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MORE INFORMATION: Jim Walker (858) 490-9019, jfw@internetter.com
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