

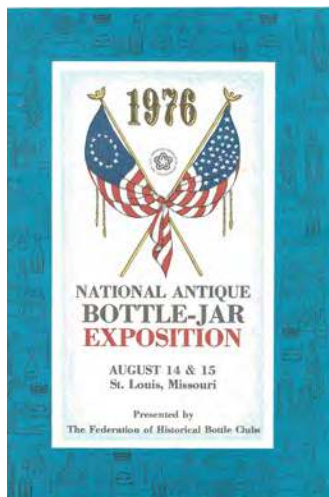
SHARDS OF WISDOM

"Heard it Through the Grapevine"



'76 Expo got started Deep in the Heart of Texas

By Chuck Bukin, Richardson, Texas (As told to Bill Baab)



The purpose as to why I have written this article is to inform FOHBC members that the 1976 Federation Antique Bottle & Jar Exposition actually got its start at the Texas Longhorn Bottle Club Show held August 6-8, 1971.

Longhorn club officers serving from 1971 to 1972 included myself as president; Charlie Mason, vice president; Cy Fillingim, treasurer; June Boswell, secretary; Alliene Landers, newsletter editor; Iris Corkran, show chairperson, and Directors Sam Smith and Richard Troll.

Federation officers were John Martinelli of New York, chairman; Peck Markota of California, 1st vice president; Gene Bradberry of Tennessee, 2nd vice president; Don Robinson of Tennessee, recording secretary; Barbara Robertus of Minnesota, treasurer; Pat Duffy of New York, recording secretary, and Ed Provine of Tennessee, historian. Members of the FOHBC Executive Board were George Reiber, Elmer Lester, John Gutenberg and John Eatwell.

During the show held in Market Hall in Dallas, the St. Louis Bottle Club was selected to be the Expo host. Hal Wagner was selected to be chairman and co-chairman was Jerry Jones of Columbus, Ohio. Vern Wagner also was a key player in establishing the Expo which was to be held during the nation's Bi-Centennial Celebration.

Present at the sold-out show were many of the antique bottle hobby's pioneers, including Carlyn Ring, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kerr, Art and Jewel Umberger and James Walker of Atlanta. Federation officers present were Mr. and Mrs. Lou Pellegrini and their son, Louie.

Honorary members of the Texas Longhorn Bottle Club included Preston Cooper of Anderson, Calif.; John C. Fountain of Amador City, Calif., and proprietor of the legendary Old Empty Bottle Shop on Pig Turd Alley; Charles and Nina Gardner, New London, Conn.; Bob and Beka Mebane, San Antonio, Texas, and Cecil and Delores Munsey, Poway, Calif. Memphis, Tenn. Club members present were Dr. Sam Greer, Robert Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Aprill, Mary and Paul Ballentine, Don and Bonnie McLane. St. Louis club members present were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Agee, Hal and Vern Wagner, the Carlos Sellaries, Roy and Barbara Brown, Jim Mayfield, Jim Cope and Jack Mullen of Kansas.

What does summer mean?

Warm thoughts by Ralph Finch

Summer means a period of pleasure—just ask a kid fresh out of school or anyone who still remembers the painful “joys” of shoveling snow...

Forget any negatives—humidity, heat, mosquitoes, summer taxes—summer means the earliest sunrises and latest sunsets, daylight hours are the longest and dark hours are shortest—and it means time to focus on really important things.

For glass collectors, it's the prime time for bottle shows, and that means...well, here's one way this long-time glass collector can explain it:

What represents summer best? Long sunny days? Even the word seems to make you feel better. As America grew in free times, summer became an adjective around 1300, and terms like summer camp, summer school, and summer resort were first recorded in the 1800s.

And “summer” is the heart and soul of so many great '50s' and '60s' rock *records that people still dance to.

We know what Santa Claus means, right? Fun, happy times, and gifts. Well-packed boxes of treats!



The word summer is quite old. It's recorded before the year 900 and comes from the Old English word for the season, sumor. And Santa has his strong European influences.

That brings me to Alan Blakeman. The words—the man—make me think of summer. Jolly old Nick—OK, his name isn't “Nick,” and as he goes up large rocks (and not down chimneys), Alan isn't

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"old," more like "ageless."

All serious (and fortunate) collectors know that "Alan" means "summer"—as in the English Summer National Bottle Show, let alone the Winter National Show—and Alan means other great English shows too, English bottle magazines, English friends, and... English beer.

I have had the good fortune to have known old Alan for decades, even been a guest at his old home—shared a hotel room at a U.S. show—and have known his family. (And doesn't that represent the best of the hobby?)

Exchanging emails with Alan makes the gap over the pond much shorter and makes me think of the many trips to Heathrow or Gatwick (or Manchester) airports. Those were the days, touring around little Barnsley in attractive South Yorkshire.

Even after all these years, throwing out Alan's name is like having known Bob Skinner, Dick Watson, or Ken Wilson (and I've been to their homes, or they have been to mine).

Once, in a disagreement with Bonham's, one of England's largest auction houses, I dropped the names of Europe's key players in old glass, then added: "Hey, I know Alan Blakeman..." and dropped the mic...and won the argument.

OK, maybe I never met the Queen of England during my 40-or-so trips over the pond, but better than that, I've met Alan Blakeman, the king of English glass (and I have shared tea with him).

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For more on *Britain's Got Talent* via bottle shows, contact alan@onlinebbr.com

*How about the Lovin' Spoonful *Summer in the City*, or *Summer Breeze* by Seals & Crofts.

Ever wonder where the term "booze" comes from?

A communication came in from the New-York Historical Society with a nice picture of a figural E. G. Booz's Old Cabin Whiskey bottle which certainly caught our eyes. It is always nice to see our hobby recognized by other groups and institutions. The description read, "This bottle was made for Edmund G. Booz by the Whitney Glass Works of Glassboro, New Jersey, around 1860. It is thought that the 1840 date refers to the age of the whiskey in the bottle. At his death, Booz had 25 cases of Cabin Whiskey in stock, valued at \$6 a case or 50¢ per bottle. The bottle pattern continued to be used after his death. Although the word "booze" was in use by the 18th century, a theory exists that these bottles helped popularize the term."

This propelled us to dig a little deeper as there are many theo-

ries regarding the origins of the word "booze." Some refer to an "alcoholic drink" in English that appeared around the 14th century, though it was originally spelled "bouse." The spelling, as it is today, didn't appear until around the 17th century.

Though somewhat of a mystery, the word "booze" itself appears to have Germanic origins, though which specific word it came from is unknown. The three main words often cited are more or less all cousins of each other and are very similar in meaning and spelling. One of the words came from the Old High German "bausen," which meant "bulge" or "billow." This in turn was related to the Dutch word "búsen," which meant "to drink excessively" or "to get drunk." The Old Dutch language also has a similar word "buisse," which translates to "drinking vessel." It is thought that the word "bouse" in English, which later became "booze", has its origins in one or more of those three words, with most scholars leaning towards it coming from the Dutch word "búsen."

Some think "Booze" came from some Civil War character, or was that "Hooker?"

Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors

Tom Lines "from Alabama," posted on June 13, 2022, that he set up at the Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors show in St. Louis the previous weekend. He even won a ribbon.

"I met a number of great people. Though they tend to collect newer mini whiskies, their overall enthusiasm equals that of our interests in older bottles and flasks. Similar to old bottle shows, gray hair dominates. Unlike old bottle shows, this event is the last remaining mini bottle show in the United States. Collectors and dealers from around the globe attended. Not sure I'll be able to go back because their 2022 event will conflict with another old bottle show I usually go to...it's set for April 21-23 next year...but I'm glad to have had the opportunity to participate this year. Good Luck MMBC!!"

Whitney Brothers Glass Works, E.G. Booz's Old Cabin Whiskey flask, Gift of Clarence G. Michalis. New-York Historical Society

