



On Display at Reno 2022



#14

OLD PIONEER WHISKEY
(WALKING BEAR)

#1

CALIFORNIA
CLUB HOUSE

#7

GOLDEN PLANTATION
WHISKEY

2

5

2

5



Represented in
FOHBC Virtual Museum

TOP 25 WESTERN WHISKEY CYLINDERS

NEVER BEFORE SEEN TOGETHER

Antique bottle collectors were invited to participate in the centerpiece bottle display at the FOHBC Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention from July 28th - July 31st, 2022 at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino - Crystal Ballroom. This display is designed to show the best-of-the best of the Top 25 Western Whiskey bottles known.

The quintessential bottle that represents our old west is the iconic fifth-size whiskey bottle. As the new western frontier developed, the hard-driving, hard-drinking pioneers often turned to whiskey to lessen the burden of life. As a result, many whiskey dealers marketed their product in what was termed "glass labeled" bottles—that is, appealing bottles blown in molds heavily embossed with lettering and symbols usually reserved only for paper labels. They are generally highly desired by collectors and some were even produced in different colors and crudeness that make them aesthetically pleasing. Others are quite rare as well, which makes them even more precious.

#1 – CALIFORNIA CLUB HOUSE PURE BOURBON, IMPORTED ONLY BY JNO C. MORRISON (MONOGRAM) 316 SAC. ST. S.F.

The "California Club House" bottle is considered one of the premier brands to collectors of California whiskey bottles. It was produced between 1872 and 1874. There are nine or so known in shades of amber.

#2 – LAUREL PALACE, J. G. KAHMAN N. W. CORNER BUSH & KEARNY SAN FRANCISCO

"Laurel Palace" is named after a magnificent saloon that first opened at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, July 10, 1872, in San Francisco. With characteristic courtesy, ladies were allowed to enter first to see all the beauty that J. G. Kahman injected in his elaborate masterpiece saloon. On the following day, the official inauguration occurred with the general public. One example known.

#3 – OLD WOODBURN WHISKEY M R C & CO. (MONOGRAM) N. VAN BERGEN & CO. AGENTS SAN FRANCISCO

"Old Woodburn Whiskey" is one of the most desirable of the early western whiskey bottles. It was produced in the mid-1870s with only three specimens known.

#4 – [AQUA] TEA KETTLE OLD BOURBON (EMBOSSSED TEA KETTLE) TRADE MARK SHEA, BOCQUERAZ & MCKEE AGENTS SAN FRANCISCO

"Tea Kettles" are great picture whiskeys cherished by collectors. They are the predecessor to the "Tea Cup Extra Old Bourbon" bottles. The example blown in aquamarine glass is considered unique as it is the only undamaged example known. A repaired example can be found in another well-known collection. John Thomas reported that for a long time, only pieces had been found in digs until a complete example was found in the 1970s in Virginia City, Nevada.



#5 – KENTUCKY GEM
SOUR MASH COPPER DISTILLED WHISKEY
AGENTS T. G. COCKRILL & CO.
SAN FRANCISCO

"Kentucky Gem Whiskey" is one of the most sought-after western fifths in antique bottle collecting circles. It is believed that there are less than five examples known.



#6 – GOLD DUST KENTUCKY BOURBON
BARKHOUSE BROS. & CO.
TRADE MARK (EMBOSSSED HORSE)
JOHN VAN BERGEN & CO. SOLE AGENTS

John Van Bergen, from Germany, is first noted in Sacramento, California in 1850. His "Gold Dust" bottles have it all with a great name, history, and bottle design. The typography and embossing and the pictorial horse are spectacular and the bottles can be found in great glass colors.



#7 – GOLDEN PLANTATION WHISKEY
FPJ & C MONOGRAM
F. & P.J. CASSIN AGT'S O.K.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL

Brothers, Francis and Patrick Joseph Cassin need no introduction to collectors of western bottles. Their Cassin's Grape Brandy Bitters bottle is a classic, highly sought after, and high-value container first marketed about 1867. Six years later, the Cassins introduced another iconic bottle in the form of their "O.K. Golden Plantation Whiskey." The earliest record of its introduction to the market was found in December 1873, when the "beautiful glass labeled bottles" were advertised.

#8 – WEIL BROTHERS
WINE AND LIQUOR MERCHANTS
SAN FRANCISCO

There is only one known example of the "Weil Brothers" bottle and it is in a light amber four-piece mold sixth cylinder size with an applied top. The bottle is in the style of whiskeys from the late 1860s to early 1870s.



#9 – DURHAM WHISKEY
(EMBOSSSED BULL)
E. CHIELOVICH & CO.

The extremely rare "Durham Whiskey" bottle is recognized by the prominent embossing of a Durham Bull. The bottles occur with and without a round glass "foot" that is centered on the opposite side of the bottle, opposite the bull. The foot allowed the bottle to be set on its side, making it less vulnerable to tipping over. Both molds are extremely rare and come in shades of yellow amber, medium amber, and dark amber. Full and broken examples have been found at Angels Camp, along the Feather River, in Santa Rosa, and in the San Francisco Bay area.



#10 – LAUREL CROWN OLD BOURBON
WH & CO. (EMBOSSSED CROWN AND BARREL)
WM. HOELSCHER & CO. SOLE AGENTS. S.F.
A NO. 1

"Laurel Crown Old Bourbon" is an extremely rare western whiskey bottle with a short shelf life. Unfortunately, William Hoelscher chose to infringe on the look and brand of the popular "J. H. Cutter" whiskey and its reputation. The case went to court and he lost and had to discard his bottles, probably in San Francisco Bay where a few examples have been found over the years. Nowadays, only seven or so complete bottles exist, probably for this reason.

#11 – F. CHEVALIER & CO
WHISKEY MERCHANTS
PACIFIC COAST AGENTS

When you think of Fortune Chevalier Whiskey you think of their bottles embossed
“Old Bourbon Castle Whiskey” or better yet, the Chevalier bottles with the embossed “castle.”
This fifth cylinder Chevalier is in the form of a small demijohn with an unusual shape.

#12 – S. T. SUITS
WALKER BROS SOLE AGENTS KY. BOURBON

Samuel Taylor Suit was born in Bladensburg, Maryland in 1832. His name is embossed on a very rare
and desirable fifth cherished by collectors. The cylinder bottles have an applied mouth with a ring and were probably
made in a San Francisco glasshouse from 1872 to 1874. Only applied-top whiskey from Utah.

#13 – JEWEL OLD BOURBON
JOHN S. BOWMAN & CO. SOLE AGENTS S.F.

The “Jewel Old Bourbon” bottle made by John S. Bowman is extremely rare. John L. Thomas in
Whiskey Bottles of the Old West notes that the first known Bowman was dug near Silver Peak, Nevada in 1969.
Not many examples have shown up since. The bottle is a fifth and has an applied mouth.

#14 – OLD PIONEER WHISKEY
(EMBOSSSED WALKING BEAR)
WM. H. SPEARS & CO.
FENKHAUSEN & BRAUNSCHWEIGER
SOLE AGENTS, S.F.

The Old Pioneer Whiskey fifth is extremely popular with collectors as it pictures
an embossed walking bear. Amandus Fenkhausen was born in 1825 in Hamburg, Germany, and was among
San Francisco’s most successful liquor merchants. In 1875, Amandus took on another partner, Herman Braunschweiger,
and retained the business name of A. Fenkhausen & Co. This partnership prompted yet another
move and name change, this time to 414 Front Street where an 1880 San Francisco Business Directory
found the partners under the banner of Fenkhausen & Braunschweiger.

#15 – BEAR GRASS KENTUCKY BOURBON
(EMBOSSSED BEAR HEAD)
BRAUNSCHWEIGER & BUMSTED SOLE AGENTS S.F.

“Bear Grass Kentucky Bourbon” was put out by Herman Braunschweiger and Edward H. Bumsted
who were sole agents for the brand in San Francisco, California. This very rare, applied top bottle
was only produced for a year or so making it hard to come by.

#16 – BOTTLED BY N. AHRENS
19 MKT. COR. STEURT ST.
WARRANTED AS REPRESENTED ON LABEL

The “N. Ahrens” is one of several 1890s German-made, red amber whiskey bottles. The bottle has a
comparatively short neck, heavy whittle pattern and a small applied top. In 1969, two examples were known.
One was dug in Santa Clara, California in the late 1970s, and one was dug in downtown
Pittsburg, California. Another surfaced with a chipped base that was dug in Redwood City.

#17 – MILLER’S EXTRA OLD BOURBON
MARTIN & CO. TRADE MARK (MONOGRAM)

Two “Miller’s Extra” fifths were found along the Oregon coast. The first one of these to
ever surface was obtained by John Shield in Dexter, Oregon in 1967.

#18 – EVANS & O'BRIEN
NO 222 MAIN STREET STOCKTON

The "Evans and O'Brien" bottle is the only early Stockton, California whiskey known, and appears to be older and cruder than the San Francisco whiskeys of the 1870s. This is probably one of the oldest of the western applied top whiskeys.

#19 – JOCKEY CLUB WHISKEY
G. W. CHESLEY & CO. S.F.

The "Jockey Club Whiskey" bottle is early and was produced and sold between 1873 and 1876. It is one of the few whiskeys found in a sixth size opposed to a fifth. These bottles are very rare and most examples are found in shades of amber.

#20 – UNITED WE STAND
OLD BOURBON WHISKEY
WILMERDING & CO. SOLE AGENTS
S.F. CAL

Amber, applied top bottle typically with a tall neck. The glass usually has a slight reddish hue and the embossing is slightly flattened.

#21 – CHEVALIERS OLD CASTLE WHISKEY
(SPIRAL NECK)
F. CHEVALIER & CO. PROPRIETORS
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL

This bottle is one that you will remember as it has a spiral neck and is the only known whiskey to have this look. There are only ten or so examples in collections so it is pretty rare.

#22 – THOS. TAYLOR & CO.
IMPORTERS VIRGINIA, N.

Virginia City, Nevada bottles, found in fifth and sixths, are cherished by collectors as they exude the "Gold Rush" era of America. It is thought that the "Thos. Taylor & Co. Importers, Virginia N." fifth bottles date from 1865 to 1874.

#23 – BOTTLED BY J. GUNDLACH & CO.
(JG & CO. MONOGRAM)
CALIFORNIA WINES & BRANDIES
SAN FRANCISCO

The extremely rare "J. Gundlach" bottles have an applied top and occur in both amber and clear. The amber examples are American while the clear examples are German-made. The bottles usually have very whittley glass. As of 1969, there were about five of the amber Gundlachs known.

#24 – PRIDE OF KENTUCKY OLD BOURBON
LIVINGSTON & CO.
SOLE AGENTS

The "Pride of Kentucky" bottle is a great example of the relationship of good old Kentucky bourbon and agents in California who represented and distributed the brand to Golden State pioneers. This cylinder fifth is found in various shades of amber with some examples transitioning to a greenish tone on the amber glass color.





**#25 – J. MOORE OLD BOURBON
TRADE MARK (EMBOSSSED ANTLERS)
E. CHIELOVICH & CO.
SOLE AGENTS**

"J. Moore Old Bourbon" bottles with the Trade Mark "Antlers" are extremely popular with western glass and whiskey bottle collectors in general. The bottles range in color from yellow-amber to red-amber, to shades of green-amber and have applied tops.



Top 25 Western Whiskey Cylinders display at the Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention.



Richard Siri Jr. and Sr. posing with the Richard T. Siri collection of Top 25 Western Whiskey Cylinders display at the Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention.



Side photograph of the Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention Top 25 Western Whiskey Cylinders display.