



I Spy-Do You Notice Anything Hiding Above?

OMG, I've done it again! The other day I was shopping at my favorite honey hole, and ventured to the lamp area. Just typical cheap thrift store lamps. But wait...notice anything? You need a keen eye...What's this? Let's remove the ugly 1960s lamp shade and what do we have? Next, let's remove the improvised lamp parts from the 1950s or 1960s...and we find a perfect circa 1860s-1870s 20" BIM, applied lip, five-gallon, demijohn! When I first picked it up it had all the look and feel of eastern United States glass and sure enough, between a pair of Dyottville whiskeys the color is nearly identical. I'm going with golden olive amber. I now have two of the finest American-made demijohns, both found here in Oceanside. I paid \$38 for the lamp and sold the lamp parts for \$25. That means the demijohn cost me just \$13. Enjoy your holiday. I sure am!

Brian Bingham
Oceanside, California

[see the comparison picture of the demijohn and the Dyottville whiskey cylinders in **Member Photos**, p65 this issue]



Glass Weight Load Calculator

I came across a calculator to determine the weight of bottles that a glass shelf will hold. I was surprised at the amount of weight tempered glass will hold. This could be useful to our members. Maybe put in the magazine or newsletter or website somewhere.

<https://www.dullesglassandmirror.com/glass-weight-load-calculator>

Michael Seeliger
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

[See another picture of the pint flask in **Lost & Found**, p61, this issue]



Brobst & Rentschler flasks

Ferdinand: You might like to see images of two flasks my digger partners and I unearthed in the Wilmington, Delaware, area this past year. These would otherwise have been a couple of ordinary amber strap flasks except for the angled slug plate embossing of Brobs & Rentschler of Reading, Pennsylvania. Brobst is spelled wrong on the pint by omitting a "T." On the broken half-pint, it appears both names might be incorrect. The "S" is missing from Rentschler, and looking at the spacing of the bottom tips of the letters, it seems the "T" is missing from Brobst also.

I know these errors occur in manufacturing from time to time. Despite the errors in spelling, I don't think there's any doubt that it's their product. There's plenty of information, auction records, and so forth regarding their figural barrel-shaped "W.C. Bitters" bottle, but no one we've asked seems to have heard anything of the embossed flask. The half pint was dug last December, and the pint about a month ago in privies several blocks apart. The pint is also remarkable for the large blob of glass streaked down the interior of one side and the pinched creases near the bottom front and back. Not sure if the blower had the hiccups that day or exactly what, but the bottle is eggshell-thin on one side with the thick streak on the other.

According to what I've learned, Franklin Brobst and Milton Rentschler were in business for 15 years beginning in 1880. Brobst was born in 1847 and served in the Union army during the Civil War. He seems inclined towards public service, having served as sheriff and a few other offices in the Reading area during his lifetime. Less is known about Milton Rentschler, but the last name can still be found in northeastern Pa. directories. Best regards.

David Smith
Pennsville, New Jersey

More on Anchor Hocking Ruby Red Glass Bottles and Lost Cecil Munsey Archives

[Editor] Last issue two architecture students from the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich had questions about ruby red glass and if they could find an article by the late Cecil Munsey from his dormant and lost website archives.

[Response 1] Ferd, I have quite a few articles from Cecil Munsey that he was sending out a few years prior to his death. I know you mentioned that his online library is lost. I have maybe 20 -30 articles in a folder if the FOHBC could archive them. In one of them is the ruby red article that I attached.

Since I began my bottle collecting with the Ruby Red beer bottles I feel I'm a bit of an expert. I checked to see if my memory was correct as I always was told gold was used to make the color but it was actually copper oxide. The glass was reheated and the CuO was added. They were used in 1949, 1950 and 1963 non-returnable bottles which I was looking for. Being color blind to red-green was a problem for me.

Here is the source of most of the information. The Mr. Jaeger is Bob Jaeger, a bottle collector from Milwaukee and active in our organizations. He passed away many years ago.

<https://www.antique-bottles.net/threads/red-royal-ruby-bottle-from-1950.530831/page-2>

Michael Seeliger
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

[Response 2] Hello Sir, while reading an article in the most recent issue of AB&GC under *News From & For Our Members* there was a FOHBC reply to an inquiry mentioning that the web pages by Cecil Munsey have been lost. I stumbled across this website years ago in trying to find sites that were no longer active.

<https://web.archive.org/>

If FOHBC is seeking his work, some if not all can be found here. Have a great rest of the day and even better tomorrows.

Deacon R. Bruce Mobley
Macon, Missouri



LANL Christmas Gift—What Is It?

As some of you know, I work at Los Alamos National Lab (LANL). A few facts about LANL. It is the premier research lab on EARTH, addressing topics such as new nuclear weapons, building new nuclear weapons, space-based weapons, global warming, artificial intelligence, COVID, physics, chemistry, biology, material science, space flight, game theory, statistics...and the list goes on and on. Almost 15,000 people work here, and Los Alamos County has the world's highest education level per capita. Somehow I fit into this four-dimensional puzzle.

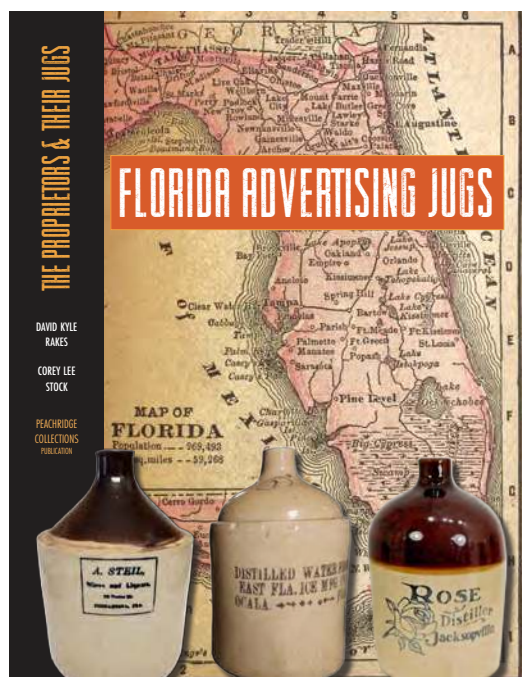
Now turn your attention to the picture below. We all received one of these for Christmas, and I'm asking you to figure out what this gizmo is. It is approximately four inches long, made of cheap-hollow plastic, has a soft black plastic nipple, and a small ring. No, it has nothing to do with fishing; it's not sharp, it's not a weapon, etc. When through, go to the end of this writing to find out.



OK...give up? Now, remember LANL's mission and education lever. This "tool" attaches to the lanyard via the ring. The curved part...aka...hook...is to be used for opening things without touching it—germs—and the black nipple can be used for your smart pad or phone...without touching it, again, germs.

This device is among the dumbest things I've ever seen. A few comments: First, the hook fits nothing at LANL offices or buildings. Because it's attached to a lanyard, you must bend over to use it. One person bent over and tried to open the door to the men's room; he bent over, and the hook broke off; a person on the other side of the door opened it, hitting the guy with the hook in the head. As for germs, LANL researches biological weapons as well; who knows? My guess is if you use this on your iPhone, wouldn't the germs be everywhere...just not on the face of the pad. All of this is too complicated for me, so I am donating mine to the Smithsonian Air and Science Museum. And the band played on.

Chris Hartz
Los Alamos, California



A new book by David Kyle Rakes & Corey Lee Stock

Florida Advertising Jugs – The Proprietors & Their Jugs

I highly recommend this newly published work entitled “Florida Advertising Jugs” to any and all readers and collectors of Florida’s History. Especially, ones that show an interest in the covered subjects of the production and usage of “stoneware” and glass containers that are commonly referred to as “jugs from Florida,” along with the proprietors that had them made and used such jugs in promoting their businesses. These one hundred plus years old jugs are adorned with the names and locations of the jug proprietors. In addition, many times other pertinent information is included, also a floral design may be applied to the jug’s surface. Thus the name “Florida Advertising Jugs.”

The authors, David Kyle Rakes and Corey Lee Stock, have accomplished a great service for anyone wanting to learn of this very interesting aspect of Florida’s history. That is, the industry of distilling and or marketing primarily spirits of alcohol, also water and other liquids. These jug proprietors were active in the mid to late 1800s up to the time when Prohibition killed this highly profitable industry in the state at the end of the second decade of the twentieth century.

David and Corey have left no stone unturned in the search for information on the lives of the men and their families as proprietors that were at the forefront of this industry in Florida for a half of a century. These two researchers have hunted down the numerous rare and hard-to-locate “Florida Advertising Jugs” on some seventeen cities and towns of Florida. They have documented the histories of the fifty-two jug proprietors, many for the first time.

Also, included in this work in addition to the fore-mentioned jugs are advertising corkscrews, shot glasses, advertisements, and photographs. All of which, are shown within the pages of this informative account of this little known part of Florida’s long and colorful history.

Philip A. Pfeiffer author of:

Pensacola’s Currency Issuing Banks and Their Banknotes 1833-1935, Pensacola’s Soda Water Legacy 1837-1998, Pensacola’s Spirits - 1559-2110

A Brief Email to both of you with Congrats!

Hello to the Meyer Team. I received the latest magazine in today’s snail mail box out front of my house. I have not been able to put it down since I started reading it. I stopped on page 34 to write to you about the most interesting digging experience article in this issue. I could not put your magazine down until I had finished reading the article, “A Line from the Past!” I have not personally dug for several years, but I was so caught up in this article that I could not put your magazine down! The author, Rick Weiner, told the story so well that I felt like I was right there witnessing his and his digging partner’s luck. I figured some good news goes a long way. Bad news weighs folks down. Good news promotes the subject matter! Just dropping in with some positive input. Now to get back to the magazine. ALSO: Great front cover with the youngster with blond hair and a look of achievement on his face. VERY ENCOURAGING for folks of any age! Sincerely,

Darlene Furda

Secretary and Contributing Editor for the Los Angeles
Historical Bottle Club

New FOHBC Treasurer



The FOHBC board recently approved Kathie Craig as the new treasurer who will replace the outgoing Jim Berry. Kathie lives in Campbell, California and has been married to Mike Craig for 40+ years. She is the mother of four grown children and a grandmother of six. Kathie started collecting bottles when she started working for Mike’s father, Jack Craig, in 1987. She is still CFO and running his companies along with her husband to this day.

She was also co-owner and CFO of their construction company for 40 years. She has been the president of the San Jose Bottle Club since 2000. For 28 years, she co-owned and ran multiple drag racing teams with her family. Still passionately collects Warners, Dr. Craig, inks and Owl Drug bottles and especially loves antiquing when she and her husband travel in their motor home.

