



Big Boy Returns to Houston!

I'm an absolute "Train" nut and I can't wait for this! Early in September, Union Pacific Railroad began its *Heartland of America Tour*, in which Big Boy No. 4014 will slowly roll its way along the middle of the country. The 1.2-million-pound locomotive started its journey in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and one of the trip's major highlights is Big Boy's arrival in Houston, which will take place

October 6. Big Boy No. 4014 is one of seven on public display, according to Union Pacific, and was delivered to the railroad in 1941. The 132-foot-long locomotive typically traveled out in the expansive west between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, and in its time racked up 1,031,205 miles of rail. Union Pacific retired No. 4014 in 1961; it was placed in a museum for years before the railroad took it back to Cheyenne for restoration. What does this have to do with bottles, I wrote an article in *Bottles and Extras* in the Sept–Oct 2016 issue comparing my OK Plantation Bitters bottles to "The Big Boy."

Ferdinand Meyer V
Houston, Texas

Basement Bottles Correction

Hey Ferd, Jack here. I have a correction to point out regarding the article *Basement Bottles* in the July-August magazine. The author stated one bottle came from New York, three from Vermont and one "all the way from California." Having grown up in California I never heard of a mineral spring from Carlsbad but the base embossing was all too familiar looking. I have a clear and totally different style bottle not easily recognized as having anything to do with spring water yet is also marked Carlsbad. According to Fike in my go-to book *The Bottle Book*, he lists the same clear example as advertised "Carlsbad Sprudel Salt is obtained from the Sprudel Spring (Bohemia) by evaporation-aperi-

ent, laxative, diuretic, accelerates absorption, stimulates nutrition, aids digestion, corrects acidity. Eisner & Mendelson Co. Sole agents for the US. 6 Barclay Street, New York City. Introduced in 1863." The labeled

photo in the book describes it as "a Bohemian-imported laxative of strudel salts introduced in 1863." The near identical base embossing are unlikely coincidental and since the salt bottles have a clear New York connection I would feel much more confident they are of same import and have no connection to California. Attached are photos of mine for comparison to the pics in the story...



Jack Klotz
Louisiana, Missouri

[more from Jack] After some thought, I figured I should check out the history of Carlsbad, California to be more thorough. I suspect this info is likely what Tod von Mechow used for his belief the bottle came from here. Turns out there was an actual mineral water company called Carlsbad Land and Mineral Water Co. that was formed but not until the 1880s. According to *Wikipedia*, the mineral water company was started by German-born Gerhard Schutte and others and named after the famed spa in the Bohemian town of Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic). Clearly all the bottles predate the 1880s and the Carlsbad in particular appears older than the others in the grouping. This could be because it is actually older or that it was foreign made, which usually tend to appear older than their American-made counterparts. Either way it would appear Carlsbad, California mineral water wasn't a consideration when that particular bottle was made.

There is also a Carlsbad, New Mexico known for its mineral springs locally, however the water was used more for irrigation than for medicinal qualities. Also discovered in the late 19th century, this too would have been a late comer to match the bottle in question. Lastly, Hughes, Texas was discovered to contain wells with mineral water and renamed Carlsbad sometime after 1907. All the communities named Carlsbad were named for some amount of local mineral springs and all named after the aforementioned Bohemian spa of Karlsbad. Hope this helps.

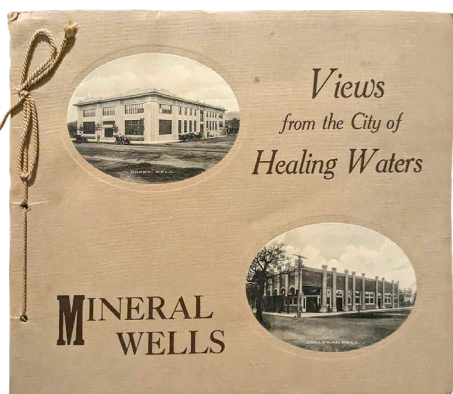
Texas Mineral Water Health Traditions

Hello Ferdinand, hope all is well there in this October of 2024. My proposal to Texas Medical Association for an exhibition on our state's mineral water health traditions in their History of Medicine Gallery has been approved. Do you know of any collectors who have Texas mineral water bottles who might be willing to lend artifacts for such an exhibition? We already have a number of lenders lined up, but we are of course hoping to make it the very best exhibition we can. Thanks so much,

Gene Fowler
Austin, Texas



After a "call out for help," many images were submitted by Texas collectors including Brad Dalton, Brandon DeWolfe and Brad Weber.



Hotel ZaZa Koi Pond Bottle Display

When Kleibert Estrada, our Hotel ZaZa contact, mentioned that we could place "H24 welcome graphics" inside their lobby Koi pond, we came up with this "quick" idea to place a few of our larger bottles on a metal stand with twinkle lights. It worked out fine and fit the eclectic arty feel of the hotel.

Ferdinand Meyer V
Houston, Texas



[Left] Bella Meyer put together a Peachridge residence set up study of the bottle display placed in the Hotel ZaZa lobby Koi pond. [Above] After approval, the hotel provided a stand for the display that was used as a prop for Houston 24 marketing purposes.

Jack here in old Missouri...again

Hey Ferdinand, Jack here in old Missouri. I've belonged to a couple of writers groups in Hannibal for a few years and one of them recently decided to publish a book of stories submitted by some of the group members. I submitted five and they included them all, to my surprise! I used a pen name for the first time, Jack St. Lyon, as in "Jack's ain't lying." We had to write an author's bio and I thought mine was funny, however the editor didn't agree apparently as the last paragraph and best part was edited out. I therefore did an end around and printed and pasted the missing portion into my copies.

I purchased a small number for family and friends and I felt you easily deserved a copy as noted on the flyleaf. I suspect you will enjoy the diversity of material within. I sent a copy using media mail to my sister in Rhode Island last Monday and it arrived early on Friday. I suspect your copy will arrive on Friday as well though not expected until next Monday. Just thought I would give a heads up.

Jack Klotz
Louisiana, Missouri

[Editor] Jack is a featured writer in AB&GC with his outstanding digging and finding stories. He was also an award winner at the H24 Dinosaurs Banquet club and member contests.

