

# SHARDS OF WISDOM

“Heard it Through the Grapevine”



## A great article from the past

Bill Baab submits the following: “*Why I Collect Empty Bottles*” by Edwin LeFevre from the October 19, 1929 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*. Edwin LeFevre is listed on the FOHBC Honor Roll. Read the entire article on FOHBC.org, Editors’ Picks.

## A Short Story About Long Island

Woof! Ralph Finch (finally) chases a good time. One of my favorite stories happened...45(?) years ago. It started as a bad day on bad Long Island, New York, our first visit. The people we met were terrible, RUDE, and reinforced the image many meek, mild-mannered Midwesterners have of Long Islanders. We were planning to attend a Long Island bottle show, at the encouragement of the impressive Jean Harrison who, at the time, was one of the Federation’s No. 1 promoters.

When I stopped at a motel I walked into the office and suddenly was met by what I call two huge, howling, screaming, vicious German Shepards! For a moment, I thought they were coming over the counter—and for a moment, had I carried a pistol, I would have drawn it. I also knew that this was an incident I would never forget (assuming I survived it). So I got a room, not happy about it at all, and even when I got into it I was thinking about turning around to seek sanctuary in the peaceful land of the Midwest—“where all the women are strong, all the \*men are good-looking, and all the children are above average.” (\*Some are short and pudgy.)

But, in a moment, everything changed when the phone rang... no, it wasn’t the governor. I answered, and it was a stranger who

had heard we were somewhere on Long Island. It was John Feldmann, a man I didn’t know, but who had gotten a call from Jean. It turned out that John had phoned local motels until he tracked me down. He invited us to his home for a tour of his great glass, a shared dinner, and a big serving of bottle collecting hospitality.

The next day? Fun at the bottle show, meeting other old and new collectors. Did I mention that I love Long Island...and bottle collecting hospitality? (But I’m still not big on meeting the Hound(s) of the Baskervilles.)

[Editor Note] This communication from Ralph came in after he received the “*The John Feldmann Collection*” FOHBC Webinar #17 invite. FOHBC president, Michael Seeliger, presented photos from the past collection of John Feldmann with special commentary by Jeff Burkhardt, Ferdinand Meyer V and Bill Taylor. If you missed the webinar you can see it at FOHBC.org. Webinars occur on Tuesday evenings during the first or second week of each month at 7:00 pm Central. RSVP at [FOHBCseminars@gmail.com](mailto:FOHBCseminars@gmail.com).



## Glass gladiator cup

Alice Seeliger submits this Roman glass souvenir cup bearing the images and names of gladiators popular in Rome at the time, ca. 50–80 CE. On view at The Met Fifth Avenue in Gallery 168. Described as translucent greenish yellow, everted, unworked, knocked-off rim; slightly irregular and oval-shaped body with vertical sides; convex undercurve with low base ring; flat but uneven bottom. A continuous mold seam runs from rim, down sides (concealed by palm fronds), and across bottom. On body, two friezes run around the sides; the upper and narrower frieze contains four names, widely spaced; the lower frieze, flanked

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above and below by a horizontal ridge, is broader and comprises two scenes divided by vertical palm fronds, each containing two pairs of gladiators in varying stances with four names inserted between them at the top of the scenes. The scene around the cup depicts four pairs of gladiators fighting. Each man is identified by name in the Latin inscription above him. Some of the names match those of known gladiators who became famous in games held in Rome during the Julio-Claudian period, suggesting that such cups may have been made as souvenirs.



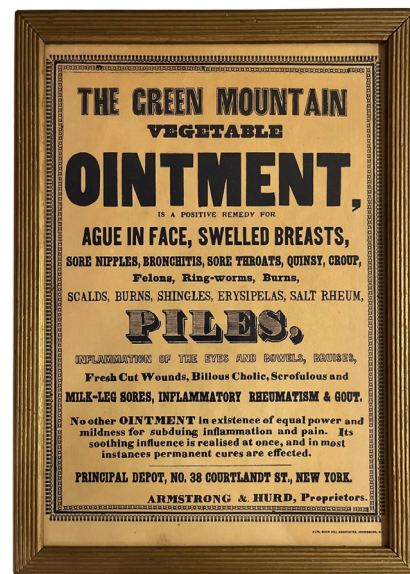
## 24 December 1838 in Texas

On this day in 1838, the pioneer community of Zavala was incorporated. Zavala, also known as Muster Point, was twelve miles northwest of Jasper and eighty-five miles north of Beaumont in northwestern Jasper County. The town was founded in 1834 and named for the empresario Lorenzo de Zavala, the original grantee of the land that was to become Jasper County. The town of Zavala, situated on land owned by Thomas B. Huling, was probably laid out by George Washington Smyth, a prominent Jasper County surveyor. Zavala was on the Old Beef Trail but was dependent on the Angelina River for trade.

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The town became a depot for surplus agricultural crops and imports. It also served as the seat of government for Bevil's Settlement and home of some thirty to forty families. A courthouse was built in 1838. A disastrous fire swept the town during the 1840s, and the courthouse, homes, and almost all records were destroyed. Huling sold most of his interest in the town, plus almost 5,000 acres of Jasper

County land, to Jerich Durkee of London, England, in 1847. In return, Huling received \$1,000 in cash and 5,000 tin boxes of Green Mountain Vegetable Ointment. The little community declined rapidly thereafter. A marker erected in 1936 at Hamilton's Cemetery commemorates the abandoned settlement. *Submitted by Kim Kokles*



## Vintage Cookie Jars worth a fortune

Cookie jars have been kitchen staples for decades. Most of us grew up with one—the kitschier the better—and have fond memories of what could be found inside. While these family favorites don't necessarily blend in with today's modern kitchens, for retro kitchenware collectors they are more desirable than ever. In a December 2, 2024 article written by Erin Kuschner for AOL, Kuschner identifies "*11 Vintage Cookie Jars Worth a Fortune*." Are any of these in your pantry? Pictured is a RRP Co. The Cow Jumped Over the Moon Cookie Jar. This adorable cookie jar is a 1950s collectible from RRP Co., a Roseville, Ohio pottery company. Featuring a smiling moon, a cat and a fiddle, a dish and a spoon, and a lid that depicts a cow jumping over the moon, this cookie jar is a true ceramic representation of the "*Hey Diddle Diddle*" nursery rhyme. The collectible can fetch upwards of \$300.

