



Meyer Collection

Bunker Hill Pickle Lighthouse Picture

Hello Ferdinand, I am a bottle collector in Cape May County, New Jersey, and have been collecting bottles locally in my area for 30 years. I published a 262-page book *"Milk Bottles and Memories of Cape May County, NJ"* last year detailing the history of every known milk bottle from here and had great feedback. I'm finishing up another book on all other Cape May County bottles, including the Seaworth Bitters bottle. I believe you have a picture of seven Skilton Foote & Co. Bunker Hill Pickle bottles blown in the Seaworth mold. I have an aqua Bunker Hill with an amber swirl from the base to the lighthouse lens I picked up a few years ago. I would like to use your picture in my book when I describe the connection between the Seaworth and Skilton Foote companies and credit you for the photo. I still need to add a few more pictures of the Seaworth bottles and to proofread everything, but it is almost finished. Please let me know if it is acceptable to use your photo.



Ed Runyon
Cape May County, New Jersey

A couple of comments from Ralph Finch

Sadly, I have sent this message to a few people over the last two weeks.

1: It has been a great 55-plus years of collecting, but...all good things come to an end. Some 64 years ago I "sprained" my back, and every decade or so it would cause a problem. Now, I can't even ride in a car (or even GET in a car) without serious pain (as a passenger; the minor stroke a dozen years ago, ended my driving). But, I can still sit at my computer and search auction houses around the world, but not going to a show—a few I have attended for 50 years—or seeing old friends is a big loss to me.

2: I enjoyed the current issue (in part, for selfish reasons): *The Penistone/Buddy Holly* story. Every February, for decades now, I think of Buddy (and Penistone). Ferd, your page layout was well done. Thanks for that.

Actually, Ferd, there is a bit more to the pain story: In a month or two they MIGHT insert wires to my spine and...yuck. Still, in two months I may turn 85, and...life has been great; I am very fortunate. Much of it due to:

1. Blind luck. (The title of a chapter in my diary).
2. A great hobby: With wonderful glass and—better—wonderful friends.
3. (And the best part of all) The most wonderful wife any man could ever hope for ...
4. I've got a bit of *fluff (or two) still in the computer, so you may not be free of me yet.

*Right now, I am trying to figure out why I have a gigantic antique ship's wheel in our garage. (With my back, and Janet's knees, we can't lift it...as if we would want to lift it.)

I like glass, but I especially like the....fun parts and the *strange parts of collecting. Stay well... (Your Petaluma agent was interested in the time (40? years ago) I ended up, while attending a glass show in the East, sleeping on a couch in a strange women's home, wearing only a pink nightie. Do you remember seeing it? Every decade or so it gets resurrected—by request), and I think it even came with a cartoon drawn by Bob Villamagna, famous for great illustrations. (I have two or three framed examples of his work in our home.) Interested? *And showing myself in a pink nightie? I have no shame.

That just caused me to remember, only recently, Alan Blakeman commented on one of his favorite stories: *"Did I room well in Wombwell?"* Wombwell was a little town near where his summernational shows were held—and excerpt that my room—over a noisy bar—was across the street from a bank, and its alarm went off several times through the night. And each time the police would come and...BUT THERE WAS A PLUS side to the story—with the ride to Wombwell, I met a great guy from Australia. Actually, he was from Michigan, but he sounded like an Australian because...

Hey, you have to pay 10 cents if you want the whole story. Stay well.

Ruby Red Drake's

Ferd, I don't know if you could somehow tie this letter into the commemorative Drake's Plantation Bitters for Reno 25 for a magazine article, or maybe just a member photo but this is a cool piece about the ruby red color being used in bottles. Of course this is Michael's family and this is how Michael got started collecting bottles. Michael's mom "Norrie" and dad, Bill, were antique collectors and visited antique stores where they began seeing ruby red Schlitz beer bottles for sale. Realizing that Mi-

Alice Seeliger
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

Bottle dug up in the backyard of a neighbor in Newton, Mass.

My son Charlie's wife, Molly, is good friends with a woman whose property abuts the famous Mary Baker Eddy House. I'm not sure if this landmark is in Chestnut Hill or Newton, Massachusetts. Mary Baker Eddy was a co-founder of the Christian Science movement back in the 19th century. The fact of the matter is that this woman (one of my son's wife's close friends), whose property abuts this famous dwelling (Google the name Mary Baker Eddy House!) has come across a whole bunch of bottles while gardening, one of which I've shared with you. Unfortunately, I'm returning to Canada in a couple of days, so I will not travel over to see this woman and her collection, but she has, I understand, quite a collection of old "torpedo" bottles that she has dug up in her yard or in her garden or whatever. One thing is for sure—she is not a collector! I asked my son's wife how many bottles this woman has, and it looks like she has at least a dozen or so dumped into boxes. I'm a major collector, Ferdinand, of 18th-century furniture. So, like you, I understand the world of collecting Big Time! Of course, I've been told that my cigar box collection of over 700 boxes (which is secondary to my overall collection) rivals the Smithsonian collection. When I return to Boston sometime in the summer, I will make an effort to investigate more. But, to tell you the truth, I think that this woman has a fortune tied up in these bottles and does not know it...but may suspect something. I'll get my son's wife to take some more photos. If you are ever in this area, perhaps I could link you up. Believe me, it would be worth the effort. I read the article you sent me, top to bottom (*Round Bottom Bottles*, AB&GC, May–June 2022). This Cantrell guy is a most interesting discovery—the founder or co-founder of ginger ale! Wow! Cheers

Charlie Humber
Mississauga, Ontario

May – June 2025

May 10, 1968

Mrs. William P. Seeliger
5601 Midmoor Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Dear Mrs.Seeliger:

This is in reply to your letter of April 29, concerning the Schlitz "Ruby Red" bottles.

In our constant search for packaging material that will give us maximum protection for our product, we did--several years ago--determine that the ruby red pigmentation in glass provided a safer container for beer than any other available color at that time. In addition, as I'm sure you will agree, it was an attractive bottle as well. We did then authorize the Anchor-Hocking Glass Company to produce our bottles to the ruby red specification; however, this authorization was not made with the sales restriction indicated in your letter--that is, that these bottles would not be sold outside a 50-mile limit of Milwaukee.

While the ruby red bottle received a very favorable reaction, it did present many, very serious problems, which made it necessary for us to abandon its use. The basic problem involved the increase in cost of our packaging material. The second problem was that, unfortunately, this was a returnable bottle and we had to rely on the retailers to keep our ruby bottles separate from the brown or clear glass bottles. We were unsuccessful in this, and a lot of our bottles were being sent to other breweries and never came back to us for refilling. This also added to the cost and made the distribution of our product in this particular bottle impractical.

We have heard from time to time that people have been collecting the ruby red bottles and paying quite substantial sums of money for them. There does not, however, appear to be any set "market" price and the brewery itself is not offering any monetary incentive for the return of any of these bottles.

We hope this information will be of interest to you and will add to your information file concerning bottles, since we note that you are also a collector; apparently, this has become a very popular pastime in this country in recent years, since we have heard from a considerable number of bottle collectors in recent months.

Sincerely,

JOS. SCHLITZ BREWING COMPANY

J.A. Ciszkowski
Manager, Packaging Development
Marketing Department
JACiszkowski/rml

