

Antique Bottle Club of San Diego



SAN DIEGO ANTIQUE BOTTLE AND COLLECTIBLES CLUB

One of The World's Oldest Active Bottle & Collectibles Club
Established 1965

THE BOTTLENECK

June 2023

Volume 58 Issue 6

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\$20 Family or Single

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Open

PROGRAMS

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Jon Lawson
Larry Westfall

BOARD

Terry Monteith
Larry Westfall
Jon Lawson



16th Charter Member
FOHBC



Prez Sez
by
Jim Walker



Hello to all you "BOTTLENECKERS" for June 2023. This June gloom is getting old, so let's hope for more sun. Our new meeting space is working out just fine. The rec. building now has some staff on duty so we can communicate as needed. Some of you may remember the issue at last meeting with missing food supplies which were locked up in the locker in front of room? I went over the following week and managed to find all of the missing supplies & the plastic storage tub. Still working on getting permission to use the small locker, as we have in the past? If anyone attended the Vegas show please be prepared to give us some feedback at the meeting. There are a lot of estate sales going on, as well as other venues for antiques and collectibles, so go find something for your collection! I'm proud of our membership numbers which have climbed to 88 or so. Our improved web presence and efforts by the membership chairman, Paul Dragos, has contributed to this increase. Those who missed the last meeting missed out on Carol Serr's excellent program on bottle ID markings. This meeting's program will be on miniature bottles, to be presented by Larry Westfall. Our regular raffles will continue but most importantly the antique radio's lucky winner will be picked. Thanks again to Paul Dragos for the great donation! Speaking of donations, I'd like to thank another member Bill Reynolds for his recent donations of bottles which supplemented our raffle inventory. It's time to get serious about a summer party, so I'm open to any ideas! I'm sad to say one of our founding members, RURIK KALLIS, has passed. He and his wife Marge were major players in the local area of historical preservation and he was a regular speaker on many subjects but he really loved San Diego bottles. They have been Honorary Members of our club for a long time. The hobby will miss him.

TWOULD BE MORE FUN TO GO BY AIR IF WE COULD PUT THESE SIGNS UP THERE-Burma Shave



Last Meeting Until
Sept. 15th. Have a
Great Summer!



www.sdbottleclub.org

2016 & 2013 FOHBC First Place Newsletter Award

MEETING MINUTES 5/18/23



President Jim Walker called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM and led us in the pledge to allegiance. There were no guests, except the Bryant's 6 year old grandson Kenny. Ken Gallo was here, visiting from Willard, Missouri!

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Treasurer** DIXIE BRYANT gave the Treasurer's report informing us that we made \$110 from our April Bake Sale and have sold another \$11 in library reference books since our last meeting. She said she's been trying to renew our FOHBC membership but their website wasn't behaving. **Editor** MIKE BRYANT is still in need of more of Your articles. **Librarian** TERRY MONTEITH said he'll bring more books to the June meeting. **Sunshine Chair** PAT WALKER Lynn Stafford had her surgery and is recovering well. **Membership Chair** PAUL DRAGOS said we have 88 current members. He suggested everyone get their friends or family members to Join. **Historian** CLAIR CUNNINGHAM is recovering from knee injury so has not done anything more lately. Rick Hall asked if all our old files could be scanned and put on our website. Clair doesn't have a scanner, but if someone wants to volunteer to do such a task, please speak up. **Videographer** MIKE KASZUBA came later, in time to record our program. Rick Hall asked if all the videos Mike has taken at our meetings could be uploaded to YouTube and linked to our website? Jim

Walker will ask webmaster Jeff Gardner if he can do this.

OLD BUSINESS: You have till our June 15th meeting to buy raffle tickets for a chance to win the 1930s \$300 valued Philco radio Paul Dragos donated to the club. You can see photos of it on the Gallery page of our website (<http://sdbottleclub.org/gallery/>). Jim thanked Mike Bragg for taking photos of our Bake Sale event and Show N Tell at our April meeting, and sending them to Mike Bryant for the newsletter and to Jeff for our website. Check out the Gallery page on the website. Don't forget to post your photos of collectible-related items on our website's Blog page, to be eligible for a prize (<http://sdbottleclub.org/post/>). Rick Hall suggested we scale down our Bottle Show to be able to use a smaller venue, like St. Dunstan's church. On October 1st, St. Dunstan's will start booking for 2024 events and Rick said he would call Vanessa to book our Show.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Bryant shared that he went to a yard sale that turned out to be at Club member Bill Reynolds house. Bill donated a bag of bottles to add to our raffle. Jim asked who will host our annual Summer Party? Ken Gallo volunteered his place, only 1,600 miles away! Hopefully, by our June meeting, someone will volunteer to host it. Ken Gallo mentioned that he and Doug Porter will be updating the San Diego milk bottle/dairy list that was started by Frank Pekarek and Ken many years ago. Doug has been acquiring some bottles from dairies Not on the list.

REFRESHMENT BREAK: Tami Harman sold raffle tickets and Dave Vilett the 50/50 tickets while we enjoyed the snacks brought by Joni Cooley. Terry Monteith won the 50/50 again! He got \$37 richer. Ken Gallo's ticket was the first drawn in the bottle raffle. Joni Cooley's ticket was drawn next, then Ken's again, to which he remarked "I'm going to have to come more often." Other winners were Tami Harman, Mary Nokes, Larry Westfall, Priscilla Hanners, Rick Hall, and Joni again. A final ticket was drawn for the bag of seven bottles Bill Reynolds donated and Jim Livingston was the winner.

PROGRAM: Carol Serr gave a program on the bottle maker marks found on many machine-made bottles and how you can use them to find out the year your bottle was made, or at least a date range. Such dating on bottles began on soda and beer bottles, at least as early as 1906 (on mouth-blown bottles), because these bottles were returned to be refilled so had a longer use-life that bottlers needed to keep track of.

A brief Show N Tell was held and then the meeting adjourned by 9 pm.

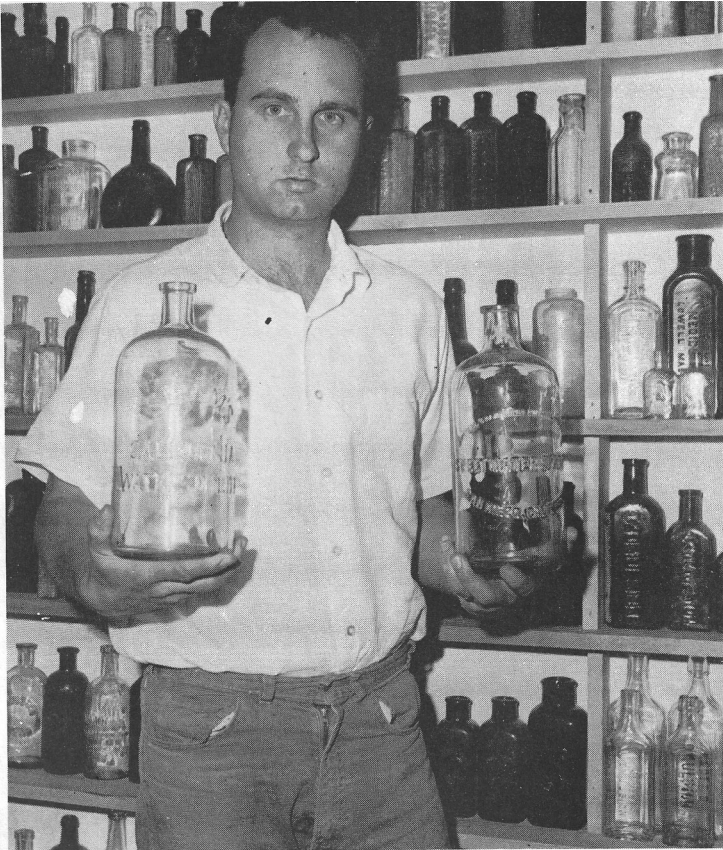
*Submitted by,
Carol Serr,
Secretary*



Rurik Kallis 1936—2023

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of one of the founding members of our club., Rurik Kallis. Rurik was one of a kind, and there will never be another person like him. He began collecting San Diego items especially bottles while in elementary school. Not only could he tell you where he dug a bottle, but the time, what the temperature was that day and the dew point! Some will remember club parties held at their home in Lemon Grove he historically restored. We are fortunate to have preserved some of his stories in a recorded program for our club. He was amazing and he sure liked to talk about his bottle digging experiences. It was a real pleasure to know him and learn from him.

Our hearts go out to Marge and family. He will be missed!



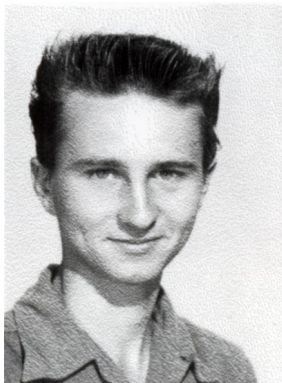
Rurik Kallis, El Cajon antique bottle collector, holds two empty bottles that once held Isham's Water of Life. The potent water would, according to Isham, cure more diseases than modern wonder drugs ever polished off and would, as a sort of bonus, grow thick hair on gentlemen's shiny domes.



Rurik with Rick Hall



Doing What he loved to do



A Young Rurik



Looks like a nice beer



*Nineteen Inch Tall
Ceramic
Bradley Hutch Lamp
Created by Rurik
(Now in the M. Bryant
Collection)*

**Kallis
Ceramics**

V.
Bradfield Regulator Company of Atlanta, Ga., was also one of the giant patent medicine firms of turn-of-the-century America. Their main product was The Mother's Friend; and like the others selected by Kallis, it was a truly national item.

From the advertising slogans one can easily imagine the purpose of this particular medicine. One slogan was, "Shortens the duration of labor"; another was, "Causes an unusually easy and quick delivery." One wonders about the effectiveness of this nostrum; government chemists found that the medicine consisted of oil, soap, and 20 per cent alcohol.

Here again the bottle provided Kallis with the basic inspiration for the sculpture (figures 12 and 13). The head, instead of resembling any one specific person, was designed mostly to show a woman's hair style of the period. Possibly the most striking

feature of this piece is the hole in the front (figure 12); a peek into this very symbolic orifice reveals the figure of a baby.

Kallis's own conclusions about the results of this creation are well taken: "This particular sculpture struck a note of pathos, of tenderness, and sorrow, and even worry to the observer. It appealed to and stirred the emotions with apprehension, and yet, with the fervent hope that some of the claims for the remedy as advertised could be true."

VI.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, perhaps the most famous of all patent medicines, is the subject of the last of the Kallis sculptures to be discussed here. Although Lydia Pinkham was born in 1819, it was not until 1875 that the family began to commercially produce and promote Lydia's vegetable compound. They went into business as a last attempt to rebuild the family fortune.

Though the first few years were a struggle, they finally began to profit from their efforts. Advertising, as is most always the case, was the chief reason for success. Lydia herself died in 1883 but the Pinkham Company kept her alive in the consumer's eyes by urging women to write to Lydia of their personal female problems and by wording their literature to make it appear that Lydia was still active in the business. Literally millions of dollars have been spent (40 or so) over the years to keep Lydia's face before the public. Such practices made Lydia the most famous and familiar female face of the 19th century.

The oval bottle easily dominates the sculpture inspired by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound (figure 14); this is especially true since there are no arms on this piece. The head is a rather abstract and again a symbolic reproduction of Lydia as she was so often pictured.

While Rurik Kallis has produced more of the stoneware ceramic forms than were presented here, the ones shown are truly representative of his skill, not only as a ceramist but as a student of history. With the exception of the Lydia E. Pinkham sculpture,

which is about 18 inches in height and weighs about 30 pounds, the other pieces are about two feet tall and weigh from 20 to 25 pounds.

I think the appreciative reader can now understand more my opening remarks and share my concern about allowing Mr. Kallis's artistic and scholarly work continue to remain buried in the archives of the University of Southern California. His study and the resulting sculptures are truly worthy of the notice and praise of those of us interested in ceramics as an art form.

Bottleneck
Sept 1989

Submitted by Clair Cunningham



FIGURES 12 and 13, depicting observe and reverse of The Mother's Friend sculpture. Rurik Kallis collection.

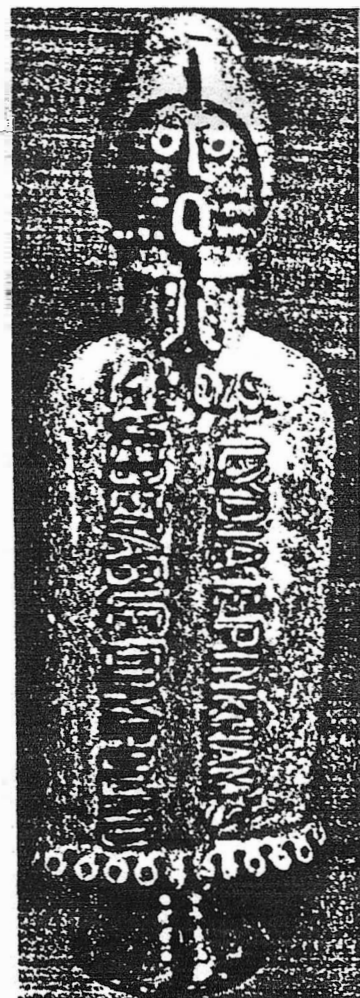


FIGURE 14 is of the Lydia Pinkham sculpture. Rurik Kallis collection.

BOTTLE FIELD REVISITED

BY GRACE KENDRICK

IT WAS ONE of those bright blue and gold Nevada days when every shrub looks newly minted, clean and fresh. It had been 12 years since we first dug bottles in Goldfield, but we knew more about our hobby now. We knew there was no point in wasting time hunting on the surface. Rather—like the gold diggers who made this town famous, we'd have to "mine." It wasn't long until we began to hit "pay dirt." On the rocky side of a gulch we dug into a veritable cache of French and Italian wine bottles—94 to be exact!

These lovely, bulbous, long-necked bottles, while not as old or as valuable as many bottles, are good examples of free blown skill. No two alike, they show bubbles, dimples and imperfections and come in pale and deep greenish aqua or with an amber cast. Of three sizes, some have Chi-anti etched on the side, bits of labels with other names, and many held Tuscany wine from Italy where they are yet being blown and covered with a protective hand woven holder of straw.

We also found an amber whiskey, a near native from San Francisco, and an aqua beer bottle from the Sioux City Brewing Co. Who knows how it journeyed so far! Although not collectors' items yet, they add interest and variation to our collection and, of course, their value will increase with time.

An amethyst olive oil, an aqua H.H.H. horse liniment, a Carter's pour ink, Mellins food and one of

the four oval-sided olive bottles that turn a deep amethyst in the sun, several tall wines and a tall slim, antique bud vase all comprised a satisfactory day's digging and proved that bottle fields considered already "overworked" still have plenty in their coffers if you are willing to dig.

After loading our lode to carry home, we decided to take a little tour of Goldfield, for this old camp has a golden heritage, not only of valuable metal, but of history, romance and struggle.

Pause for a brief moment and you'll hear the quiet atmosphere come alive. You'll hear the tinkle of honky tonk pianos, the clink of a faro table, boisterous crowds of miners celebrating a new strike or, just because it was Saturday night, the clop, clop of

teams and the rattles of wagons in the dusty street.

Down the boardwalk on a side street lined with old frame cabins, you'll hear echoes of family life on a still night—the crying of a baby, barking of dogs, sounds of children at play. It is all there for those interested — the happiness, sorrow, pain, glory and the everlasting struggle just to live in harsh desert land. Nevertheless, Goldfield is beautiful, with its colorful maze of old mine dumps etched with spidery head frames.

Sometimes it's good for the spirit, traveling back in imagination to our desert's early times. While we enjoy the historic old camps and their treasures, it keeps us aware of the 20th Century comforts and treasures that enable us to enjoy the old ones more.

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Submitted by Clair Cunningham

January, 1965 / Desert Magazine / 7

May 2023 Meeting



Rick Hall & Terry Monteith



Dixie Bryant with Grandson Kenny Bryant



Ken Gallo & Joni Cooley



Nice Turnout



Eileen Westfall & Pat Walker



**Paul Dragos Selling tickets to Junes Special Raffle
of a Restored 1930's Radio**

NEWS—Upcoming Shows

SHOWS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION



Aug 4-6 Tonopah Rock and Bottle Show **Tonopah, NV**

Sept 9 Antique Bottle Collectors of Colorado 57th Annual Show **Castle Rock, CO**

Sept 16th Western Bottle Collectors Assn. 56th Annual Show **Santa Rosa, CA**

Sept 23 The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club Annual Show **Santa, Ana, CA**



\$219.00



\$157.50



\$39.99



\$85.00

San Diego Items
Recently Sold on Ebay



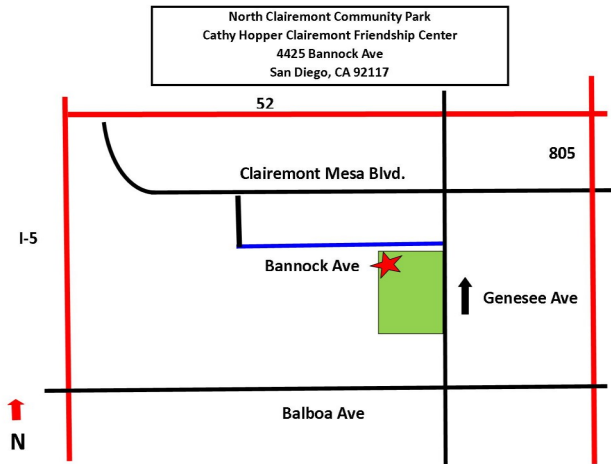
\$34.05

E
B
SAN DIEGO
Y

SD Roadster Club Window Plaque	\$219.00
SD Police Badge.....	\$157.50
1916 Expo Pass.....	\$85.00
SD Beer Label.....	\$39.99
SD Beer Glass.....	\$34.05

San Diego Antique Bottles & Collectibles Club
P.O. Box 191333
San Diego, CA 92159-1333

This Meetings Raffle Items



SARSAPARILA MEDICINE
JOHANN HOFF, dark amber ALE
BLOB SODA, F. McKINNEY, PHILADA
PUMPKINSEED, Half pt. in Golden Amber
Qt. CROWN DISTILLING CO. applied top, monogram
7up ACL SODA, MASON CITY, IA.

PROGRAMS

Subject To Change

- JAN. 20** Extended Show & Tell
- FEB. 17** Rare San Diego Milks by **Doug Porter**
- MAR. 16** Antique Clocks by **Paul Dragos**
- APR. 20** Bake Sale
- MAY 18** Dating Machine Made Bottles by **Carol Serr**
- JUN. 15** Miniature Sample Bottles by **Larry Westfall**
- SEPT. 21** Bottle BINGO & **Ice Cream Social**
- OCT. 19** Bodie, NV Bottles by **Jim Livingston**
- NOV. 16** WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!!!

REFRESHMENTS

- Matt Lawson**
- The Cunninghams**
- The Hinners**
- Joni Cooley**
- The Walkers & Matt Patterson**
- Mike & Dixie Bryant**
- Nancy Fowler & Lynn Stafford**
- The Hinners**

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS INFO WILL BE PROVIDED

MEETINGS START AT AROUND 6:00 PM