

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

September 2023

Volume 58 Issue 7

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\$20 Family or Single

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Jon Lawson
Larry Westfall

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Larry Westfall
Jon Lawson



16th Charter Member
FOHBC



Prez Sez
by
Jim Walker



Hello to all you "BOTTLENECKERS" for September 2023. Our summer is winding down and maybe some cooler weather is in order. Hopefully our members managed to get out there and pursue their dreams of expanding personal collections. Locally there have been plenty of estate sales, some of which have offered up some goodies. Maybe we'll see them at the next meeting? A bunch of local milk bottles were offered up & Larry Westfall was the lucky purchaser. I hear that Doug Porter now owns most of them? I was fortunate enough to have been given hundreds of miscellaneous small dug bottles from an older dump of a local hospital. As you might imagine, many items were medically oriented, stoppers, vials, tiny drug sampler bottles of less than an inch or 2. A few decent poison bottles made my day. I spent a lot of time soaking & cleaning most of them. I'll bring a bunch to the meeting for members to go through. Tiny bottles do make unusual displays. Most of you already know about the Santa Rosa(9/16) & the LA Bottle(9/23) shows coming up. Support them if you can. With gas prices continuing to rise, among other things, it could be more difficult for some to travel? I'm looking forward to our September 21 meeting's BINGO & ICE CREAM program. Mike & Dixie always do a fine job with the bottle bingo and touching our sweet teeth with a variety of ice cream. I want to thank our Vice Prez, Paul Dragos, for ironing out our membership issues and producing a viable roster. We did lose some members, who just didn't pay dues or attend our meetings but I'm OK with a 70 plus membership. We'll get back to the hundred mark one of these days! By the time you read this, our summer party will have come & gone, thanks to Tim & Laura Schweighart and we should have plenty to share over that bowl of ice cream, next meeting! Be there or be square!!

MEN WITH WHISKERS NEATH THEIR NOSES, OUGHTA HAVE TO KISS LIKE ESKIMOSSES-Berma Shave!



www.sdbottleclub.org

2016 & 2013 FOHBC First Place Newsletter Award

MEETING MINUTES 6/15/23



President Jim Walker called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM and led us in the pledge to allegiance. Guests included Larry Westfall's friend Ed Villanueva; Matt Patterson's friend Jerry York – "a hoarder with lots of collectibles to sell"; and Mike Bragg's friend Gilbert Smith. Also, the Monteith's granddaughter Laila joined them tonight. Jim reminded everyone that the Last person out of our meeting room must make sure the doors are Locked. The clean-up crew doesn't always come in at 9 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Treasurer** DIXIE BRYANT gave the Treasurer's report and informed us that she has paid for our permit to use this meeting room for three months (after our summer hiatus). **Editor** MIKE BRYANT had nothing to report, but could still use more articles; get writing during our summer break and send them to him. **Librarian** TERRY MONTEITH brought books to sell and also donated several bundles of periodicals to our raffle tonight. **Sunshine Chair** PAT WALKER was absent because she herself is recovering from back surgery – she thanks those members who have sent her cards. She sent a sympathy card to Marj Kallis after the passing of Rurik, at age 86. **Membership Chair** PAUL DRAGOS said only 62 members have renewed for this year. Please urge your collector friends to Join. **Historian** CLAIR CUNNINGHAM has bowed out of this position. Who will take this on? Mike Bryant shared how when Cecil Munsey

passed away, his family didn't keep Cecil's website running so we lost his wealth of bottle info that he shared on there! But recently, someone contacted Mike and gave him a copy of every article from Cecil's website! **Videographer** MIKE KASZUBA had no report. **Webmaster** JEFF GARDNER knows how to load our program videos onto YouTube if we decide to do that. Mike Bragg has sent some of his phone videos to Jeff for our website. Go check them out (<http://sdbottleclub.org/post/>). It was suggested that members who attend bottle shows, share their videos by sending them to Jeff to upload on our website

NEW BUSINESS: Jim asked again, who would like to host our summer party? Matt Hampton said he will ask Tim Schweighart if he would be willing to do so, once again. More discussion about our Bottle Show was made. Rich Hall went to St. Dunstan Church and he doesn't think it will work out for us, since they can bump a reserved user if a church member's wedding or other event comes up! Mike Bryant suggested the Masonic Temple; Rick said it isn't big enough. Should we scale down and do a smaller show? Dave Vilett asked about holding our show at Kobey's Swap Meet. No conclusions were made.

REFRESHMENT BREAK: Jon Lawson brought up how, since Rurik Kallis was a charter member of our club, we really need to do more than just send a card. He made the motion that the Club send some nice flowers, up to the amount of \$150; Steve Van Wormer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Teri Houchin offered to buy and send

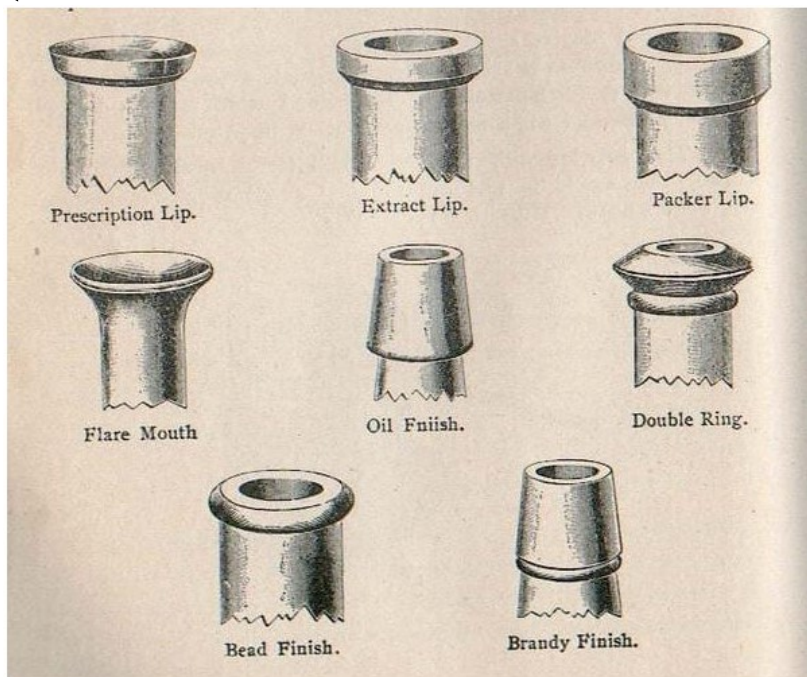
the flowers to their son Erik – who has moved in with Marj to take care of her.

REFRESHMENT BREAK: Dave Vilett sold raffle tickets and Tami Harman the 50/50 tickets while we enjoyed the snacks brought by Jim Walker, topped off by donuts brought by Matt Patterson. Mike Hinners won the 50/50 of \$30. The raffle brought in \$36 for the seven bottles and four bundles of periodicals, and the first ticket drawn was Dave Vilett's (hmm). Other winners were Chuck Gildea (making his drive down from Orange Co. worth it), Jim Walker, Jon Lawson, Mike Bryant, Mike again, Chuck again, Jim again, John Crihfield, and Priscilla Hinners. The vintage radio winner was Robert Harman! A Big thanks to Paul Dragos for donating his restored 1930s radio to raffle and bringing in over \$300 in ticket sales for the Club.

PROGRAM: Larry Westfall gave a program on Miniature Sample Bottles. These are of primarily perfume, liquor, and soda. Many of the liquor ones, at least, were promotional – to get new customers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

*Submitted by,
Carol Serr,
Secretary*



Submitted by Rick Hall



New Member: Scott Dunkel

Fifty Years of Applied Color Label Sodas

by David L. Mainz

It was about a half century ago; 1930s. Hoover was out and FDR was in. Big bands were the rage and millions were out of work. Times were tough. Many couldn't afford the 25¢ admission to see the latest flick from Hollywood. Most, however, could now and then come up with a nickel for a cold soda pop.

Soda bottlers had begun implementing a new way of packaging their product. The plain embossed bottle which had in recent history just given way to the embossed bottle with unusual shapes and glued-on paper labels, were giving way to Applied Color Label (ACL) bottles. Often referred to by today's collectors as "painted labels," ACLs allowed for great variety in design, easier product identification, and more economy for the bottler. While ACL technology had been around since 1920, it was only then that new bottles were showing up on a large scale. Some of the earliest were basically the old embossed style with a very small painted label replacing the embossed name. But in the spirit of good old Yankee competition, the race was on to see who could come up with the best colors and catchiest labels to entice those hard earned nickels away from a thirsty America.

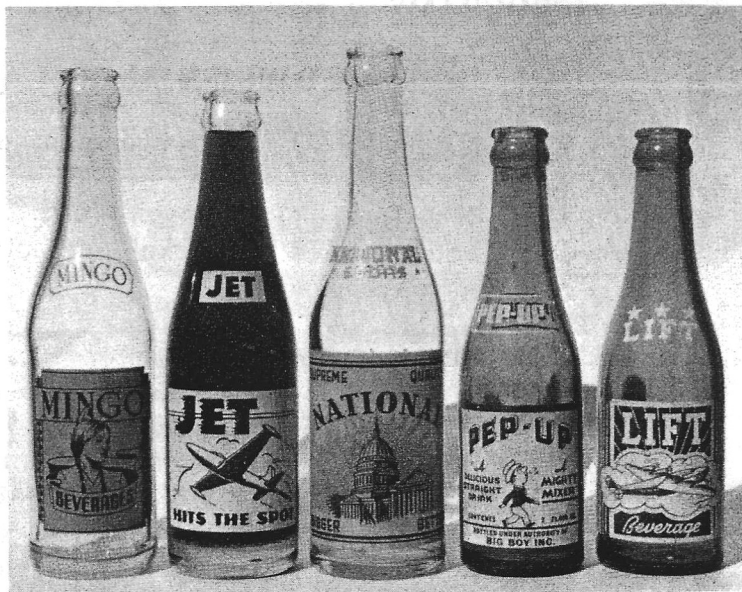
And what designs they were! Anything and everything was potential material for pushing soda. The Cleopatra of the cigar box inspired a St. Louis bottler to create "Cleo Cola." Cowboys, Indians, camels, airplanes, eagles, pretty women, clowns, horses, and even the Statue of Liberty became the hallmark for thousands of bottling companies sprinkled across the country. While the bottlers had the intention to sell more soda, they inadvertently created a future collectible and a documentary of their time.

For example, many of the bottles of the 1930s and 40s promoted the benefits of lithia, now a prescription-only medication used for manic depression. Others boasted they were "Enriched With Dextrose" -- 1988 trans-

lation: sugar. The Cleo Cola bottle of the late 30s caused quite a stir when it first came out. Such a scantily clad woman was a little too much for many respectable citizens to tolerate. Public opinion actually resulted in the removal of Cleo's belly-button on later runs of the bottle! After World War II, a red, white, and blue label depicting a saluting soldier urged Americans to drink "All-American." A California bottler jumped on the band wagon with Victory Root Beer. As the years went by, pictures of propellered airplanes on 1940s labels gave way to those of jets and themes of outer space. Fortunately, since a large number of the bottles are dated on the base, and often give the bottling company name and location, collecting painted label sodas is an easy and enjoyable way to document some colorful years of our American culture.

Right about now I can hear some Hutchinson or flask collectors saying "But they're too new!" Well, fifty years isn't that new. Many might consider the returnable soda bottle a contemporary item, but look in the supermarket the next time you're grocery shopping. What you see are shelves and shelves of two-liter, plastic bottles and six packs of cans, and the brands are basically Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, 7-Up, Dr Pepper, and some sort of orange and root beer. Compare today's throw away society with the literally thousands of independent bottlers that thrived in large and small towns across America in the 1930s thru the 1960s. You'll discover that the soda business and the soda bottle have gone thru some dramatic changes.

Shall we wait until ACL sodas are a hundred years old before taking them seriously? Consider this: much of the glass that appears at today's bottle shows has been dug. You rarely dig an ACL. In the great majority of cases, soil conditions are such that the ACL is destroyed or marred within a very short time. Yes, you can dig the bottle, but it's the labeling that makes it collectible. ACLs dug from dumps dating as late as the 1960s are already



unrecognizable. Nice ACLs don't come from the ground. They come from underneath old general stores, inside old bottling companies that have been closed for twenty years, flea markets, and just about anywhere people enjoyed that liquid refreshment called soda pop.

The same Hutchinson or flask collectors might continue, "Okay, maybe they are collectible, but there's not that much interest in them." Not true. There is already an official network of close to a hundred serious collectors nationwide. And for every one of those there are likely many more who never knew anyone else collected them. Who are these pioneers of ACL collecting? They are all types from all walks of life who find the ACL the culminating collectible for them. There are postal employees, sign painters, computer programmers, dietitians, construction workers, insurance salespeople, the young, the old, and that's just the beginning!

"But they're not worth bringing to the show!" say the Hutchinson or flask collectors. Not true; the days of the 50¢ soda bottle are gone. A

nice ACL with a picture of some kind (rather than just the brand name) easily goes for \$5 or \$6. If it's in the rarer amber glass that's a \$10 bottle. Since many bottles were used in small towns, a number of ACLs that turn up are often one-of-a-kind examples, a real find for any collector. Prices continue to go up. The Canada Dry bottle produced and distributed at a barbecue for then Vice President Lyndon Johnson brings a hefty \$100. Not bad for an empty soda bottle!

Well, there you have it; I rest my case. For some time ACL soda collectors have been "second class citizens" of sorts at bottle shows. We often find our bottles "under the table." That's not to imply that any shady deals are going on; the reference is only to the geographic location of our quarry. But times are changing. Collectors are beginning to appreciate the real beauty in a multi-color, picture, ACL soda. These tiny time-capsules of Americana reflect a period of our history when life was simpler and soda was 5¢. It won't be long until ACL sodas are on top of the table too!

David L. Mainz
273 Chalet Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Submitted By: Clair Cunningham

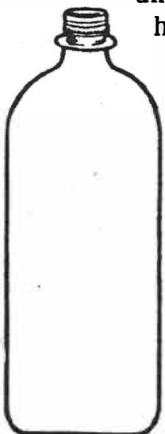
HOW TO LOCATE, SEARCH, AND RECOVER CACHES AND ARTIFACTS FROM UNDER OLD HOUSES

Rare bottles, rats, gold rings, snakes, silver coins, fleas, garbage, spiders, and collectibles. The list is endless of the trash and treasures folks from other eras have stashed underneath houses. The older the house, the greater the rare treasure potential for amateur and professional alike. One fact is darn sure, there are valuables under virtually every old house and for some reason they were left behind or lost. These treasures are free for the recovering. But first a few obstacles must be overcome and adequate preparations made to insure safety and quality recoveries.

TARGET HOUSES

The first consideration is to qualify a target house. Unlike other forms of treasure searching which requires researching historical publications and maps for geographical clues, a drive through older neighborhoods and more importantly, conversations with friends, relatives, and neighborhoods can turn up leads and sites. Obviously, an old structure can be spotted just by viewing it. Exactly how old it is can be determined by someone familiar with its history or tax records. Older is better as far as potential rarity of finds, but tenant history is as important. We all lose items at some time or another. We also possess an innate secrecy or tendency to stash valuables. An understanding of the history of a house and its tenants helps in determining the likely quality of the recoveries. But you never know so be prepared to execute a comprehensive search.

The biggest obstacle to overcome is gaining permission to crawl under someone's house, especially if you don't know them. People aren't keen on allowing strangers under their homes. It's an invasion of privacy of sorts. And if they know you're a treasure hunter, they definitely will be against a search if they think recoverable wealth is underneath. Also, if they have something to hide, they will not allow a search. There are criminals among us. Try again when they move. Most people are decent and receptive to others seemingly like themselves. The secret to gaining permission is honesty.



When approaching an owner or tenant of a structure you would like to search, be presentable in appearance and friendly. Ideally, approach that person with someone that can introduce you and give you a good introduction. When people feel they know one another, they're more apt to be

trusting. Explain exactly what you are requesting permission to do, being careful in choosing your words. Never use the words treasure hunter since it might arouse suspicion as to why you want to search this particular house. Simply explain you collect relics from other eras and that particular structure was a part of that era. By relics you mean bottles, possible coins and other things of that nature. Most folks will view this as a harmless request.

Offer as part of the arrangement a promise to report any problems or damage you might find that might cost the money in the future if left unchecked. A free inspection worth the permission to search to most people. Also you might agree to toss out or gather up any trash you might encounter. This is a touchy point. Some people toss garbage under their houses. Glance under the house before committing.

TOOLS AND SEARCHING METHODS

Very little in the way of tools is necessary to execute a thorough, exhaustive search beneath a house. Exactly what tools are necessary also depends on the specific amount of room available in which to work. Some houses have basements or cellars while others have only crawl space. Another factor is the type of recovery taking place. Extensive digging requires digging tools which are limited by the area in which to handle them. Always do an inspection to access tool needs before actually beginning any recovery.

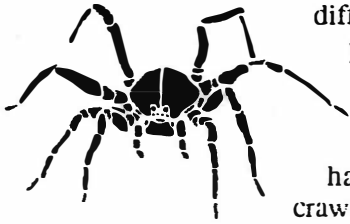
Included here is a list of tools necessary on any search. Again, unique recoveries might require other tools. Procure coveralls or some durable outerwear which might be ruined, flashlight, spotlight and extension cord, gloves, pocketknife, detector, small bottle probe, hand cloth, nylon bristle brush, palm size mirror, recovery bag, digging tools, nylon rope, and specialty tools predetermined by the initial inspection.



SEARCH AND RECOVERY

Once the initial inspection is completed and necessary tools and equipment assembled, the actual search and recovery begins. As is true with most all forms of treasure hunting, it's a good idea to have a partner. There are always risks and should the worst occur, a partner might make the

HOW TO LOCATE, SEARCH, AND RECOVER CACHES AND ARTIFACTS FROM UNDER OLD HOUSES



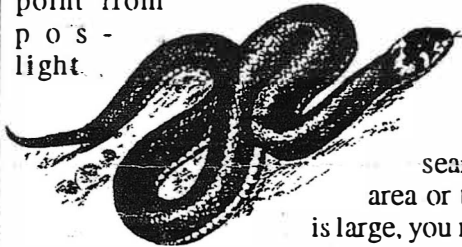
difference between safety and peril. Anything can happen under old structures so safety should be foremost.

Cellars and basements have easy entranceways but crawl space entrances are usually small and difficult to squeeze into.

Caution begins at the entrance. Use a light to scan the opening for glass, rusted metal, spiders, snakes, and anything dangerous about the threshold. Never act before looking and thinking and absolutely never place a hand where you cannot see. Snakes are notorious for resting on ledges and spiders spin their webs across openings. A hand held mirror allows a quick scan of the joists ledges.

Once the entrance is cleared, slip under a few feet and have your partner feed in the necessary tools before he slips underneath. A basement or cellar is easier to move about but a crawl space is low and cramped. If you aren't used to crawling on your belly and occasionally bumping your head on a joist, you'll be sore for a few days. Move to the farthest point from

pos-
light



the entrance and if possible, hang a spotlight to brighten up a large area. It also frees the hands to search. If the underneath area or the artifact potential is large, you might consider using string to lay out a search grid.

Many older homes were built upon piers and not underpinned around the perimeter until much later. Children played under the houses and along the outside walls. A certain percentage of items were lost. Also, before the advent of air conditioning, folks cooled off in the yard or on the porches. Items falling from pockets often fell about the steps or through cracks in the porches and not recovered. Later, when the perimeters of the homes were bricked in or underpinned, these items were vaulted up. Bottles are easy enough to spot but coins will be in the ground. A detector might yield some surprising silver coins.

Carefully search all ledges. People often stashed items on easily reached ledges before underpinning. Safe and out of sight, more than a few caches were left behind. Once the home was underpinned, these caches became unreachable unless a person crawled beneath the home. A glance with a good light might miss a quality find such as coins since it's hard to raise your head high enough to see the top of the ledge. Use a mirror to carefully scan the perimeters of joist and brickwork.

In basement areas where there are brick, block, or stone walls, very


carefully scan every inch. In years past, many folks didn't trust banks and devised their own secret places. Often they might loosen a stone or brick, hollow out a nook, stash their valuables, and then remoter the joints. An ultraviolet light will show where there has been activity. Under normal lighting, the activity area is not noticeable. An ultraviolet light highlights an activity area. It's an important tool for any cache hunter.

The important rule of searching is examine everything below ground, about piers, along walls, and especially within reach from the outside entrance. People hide items in two ways; out of sight with easy access for retrieval, and securely hidden for long term possession. Approach your search with these two facts in mind. As you examine the search area, imagine you were going to cache your valuables.

How would you hide something for a long duration while still leaving a clue or key should your memory become clouded by time? Or suppose you wanted to temporarily stash some valuables or cash for a later, easy retrieval. Remember that the clever and ingenious accumulate wealth, so it's safe to assume they will be very clever in their hidey holes. If it moves, move it! Use a detector to see what is out of sight. Search for any unnatural detail or rearrangement. Glean every square inch.

Unearthing buried artifacts and snooping out the hidey hole caches are the thrilling parts of the search. It's also tiring working in cramped and filthy conditions. As finds are accumulated, bag them and continue the search. Don't waste precious time studying, talking, and wondering what a particular find may or may not be. It takes a lot of time to conduct an exhaustive search. Set a pace according to the size of the search area so the search can be completed in one outing. Unless the target is an especially productive or promising one, get the task accomplished and move on to the next one. Recoveries can be examined and values determined after the search has been completed.

Searching out crawl spaces, basements, and cellars can become an exciting addition to the sport of treasure hunting. But remember, it can also be dangerous unless you properly prepare. That's the fascination of treasure hunting, the mystique, the danger, the lure of lost, but recoverable wealth.

Who knows — it might be you — someone is going to find some lost gold coin! 



June Meeting



Larry Westfall did a great program on miniature soda bottles



Layla, Vanessa and Terry Monteith



Stephen Van Wormer checking out a few bottles



Mike Bragg and Gilbert Smith



Antique Radio Raffle Winners,
Tami and Robert Harman

NEWS—Upcoming Shows

SHOWS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

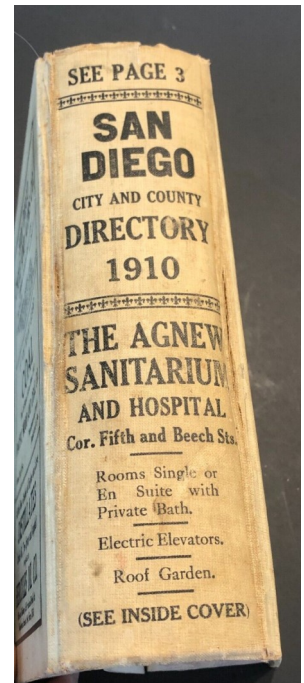


Sept 16th Western Bottle Collectors Assn. 56th Annual Show **Santa Rosa, CA**

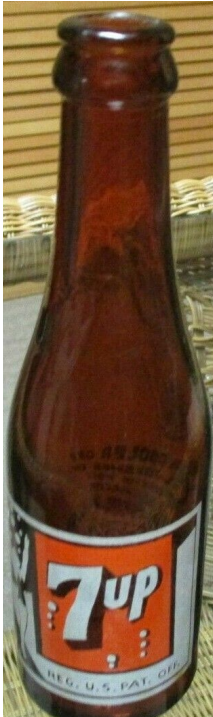
Sept 23 The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club Annual Show **Santa Ana, CA**

Oct 6-7 Sacramento Valley Museum Antiques and Bottle Show **Williams, CA**

Nov 10-11 49er Historical Bottle Assn. 45th Annual Show **Auburn, CA**



\$457.00



\$635.00



\$28.57



\$29.87



\$199.16

San Diego Items
Recently Sold on Ebay

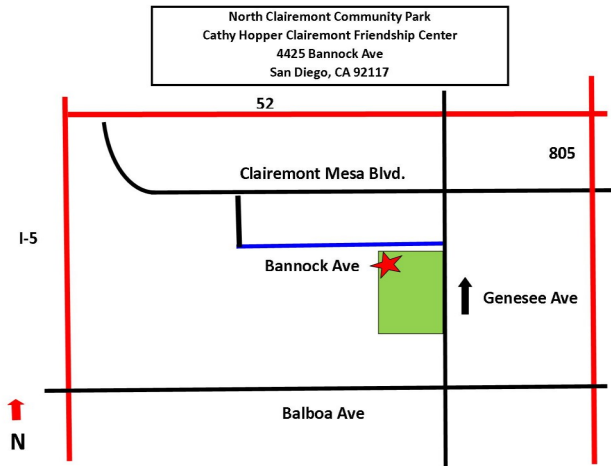


\$152.50

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Amber 7 UP.....	\$635.00
1910 SD Directory.....	\$457.00
Old Dutch Cone Top.....	\$199.16
Mission Bay VW Frames.....	\$152.50
Heller's Spice Tin.....	\$29.87
Dairy Mart QT.....	\$28.57

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



This Meetings Raffle Items



No Raffle This Month because of
Bottle BINGO

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**
NO MEETING JULY & AUGUST – PICNIC INFO WILL BE PROVIDED
- 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**
- Mike & Dixie**
- Nancy Fowler & Lynn Stafford**
- The Hinners**

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS INFO WILL BE PROVIDED

MEETINGS START AT AROUND 6:00 PM

Antique Bottle Show

SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2023

Los Angeles
Historical Bottle Club

1751 SOUTH LYON ST.,
SANTA ANA, CA



Bottles, Antiques, Collectibles, Insulators, Great Displays, Raffles, Appraisals & Near Amusement Parks, Beaches, and Hollywood

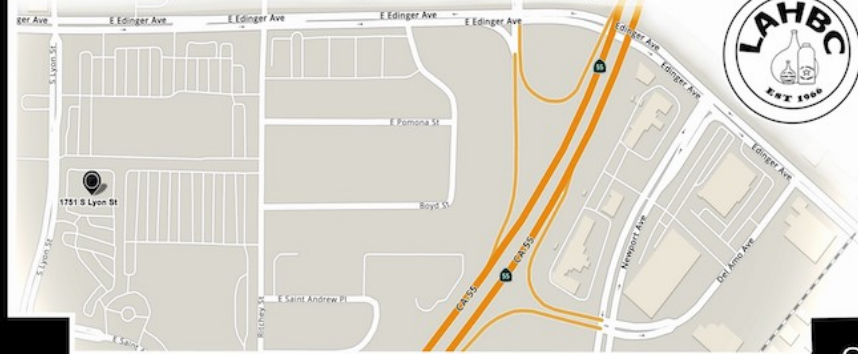
Early buyers \$15 at 8 AM - General Admission Free 10 AM to 3 PM - Club Members All Day Entry

For Dealer Information ~ email donwippert1@gmail.com ~ Call Don Wippert 818 - 610 - 9332 / Chuck Gildea 949 - 351 - 7620



Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club

Our club would like to invite you to our 54th antique bottle and collectible show at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge September 23rd, 2023. It's easy to get there... Just take highway CA 55 to Santa Ana, CA. Take the Edinger Ave exits for the show. Traveling north or south on the 55 take exit 9 then turn left on Edinger Ave then turn left on S. Lyons St. The show is only a short distance from the highway.



Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club
Find us on Facebook



ENJOY THE DISPLAYS AND TALK WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE COLLECTORS

OUR SHOW FEATURES RAFFLE DRAWINGS THROUGH OUT THE DAY. YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE DRAWING. THIS YEAR'S SHOW WILL HAVE A FREE RAFFLE FOR A CHILD'S COLLECTION OF GHOST TOWN BOTTLES DONATED BY A FORMER CLUB MEMBER. THE RAFFLE WILL ALSO INCLUDE CLUB MEMBERSHIPS FOR BOTH THE WINNER AND PARENT. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE DRAWING YOU MUST BE UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE AND ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.