

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

April 2024

Volume 59 Issue 4

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\$20 Family or Single

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16th Charter Member
FOHBC



Prez Sez

by

Jim Walker



Hello to all you "BOTTLENECKERS" for April 2024. "HooRay!" We're back in the saddle again, our first Bottle & Collectibles show in almost 5 years!! I worked out a contract with the AL BAHR SHRINE temple that our treasury can live with. We're planning a 50 plus table sellout so our budget should not suffer in the long run. On Saturday, June 22, 2024, TOGETHER, we'll make it happen!! Lots of small flyers to promote the show will be available at this meeting. I've already sent out to all club members copies of an application, show flyer, etc! We need your support! We have a lot of things to cover at this meeting, not the least of which, is a program on high end watches by our vice president Paul Dragos. I'm sure he'd like to see any rare watches you choose to bring for show & tell or for evaluation. There are a number of other bottle shows going on this summer, especially our friends in LA in September. Las Vegas/Henderson Nevada in late May & Tonopah Nevada as well. Looks like the hobby is still strong. We'll show fellow collectors that San Diego's "BOTTLENECKERS" are back.

Half a pound for half a dollar, spread on thin above the collar-BURMA SHAVE!



New Meeting
Start Time is
5:30

www.sdbottleclub.org

2016 & 2013 FOHBC First Place Newsletter Award

MEETING MINUTES 3/21/24



President Jim Walker called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Guests included Betty Frizzell

who joined tonight, and Bill & Linda Flores who found out about our meeting from Mike Polack.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Treasurer DIXIE BRYANT was absent. Editor MIKE BRYANT still needs your article contributions. Librarian TERRY MONTEITH absent. Sunshine Chair PAT WALKER shared that both Terry & Vanessa Monteith got COVID; and Priscilla Hinnens broke her arm. Membership PAUL DRAGOS reported that with Betty joining tonight, we have 80 members. Historian vacant. Videographer MIKE KASZUBA is on his way.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim was hoping a Club member would step up to offer store our stuff. Can someone at least research how much a storage unit will cost? Someone said that their 10x10 ft unit costs \$200/mo. Yikes!

Jim informed everyone that he wants to begin setting up the tables and chairs at 5:15 pm. Jeff McGreevy said he wants to help with that task. Jim hopes to start the meetings at 5:45 pm, since we have to be out of the room by 9 pm.

As for our June Bottle Show, Jim just found out that the Al Bahr Shriners Center has started renting their space again. For the first floor, 50-60 tables, from 6am to 6 pm will cost us \$2,760 with set-up fee. They don't sell food anymore and we will not be able to use the kitchen. Do we use food trucks? Steve Van Wormer suggested we postpone the show until the fall. But Jim wanted to book either the 22nd or 29th of June. Larry Westfall proposed we book the 22nd. All were in agreement to this date. Mike Bryant suggested we raise the price of the tables, since it has been the same for 20 years. Jim will get the sales applications sent off to prospective sellers soon.

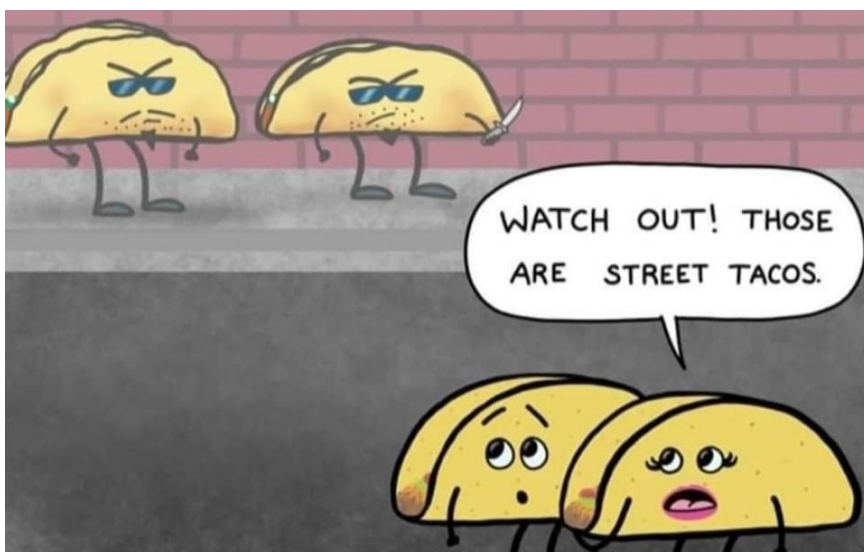
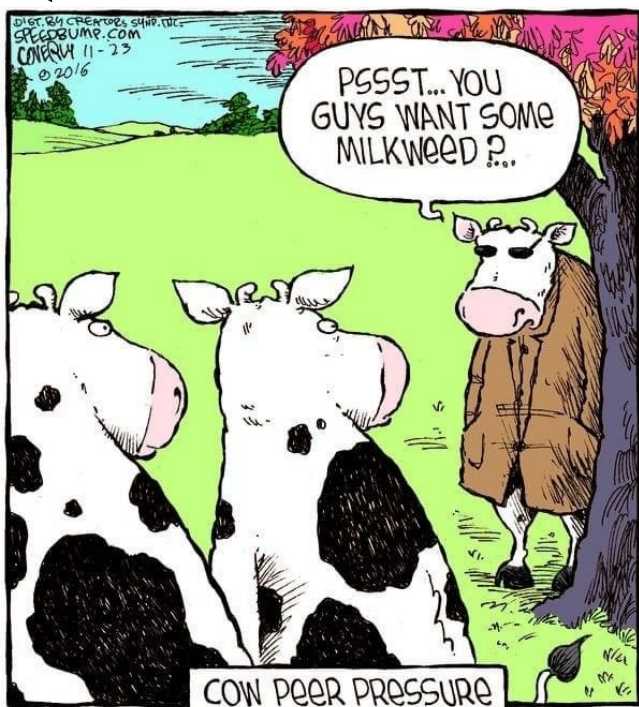
BREAK: David Vilett sold raffle tickets and Joni Cooley the 50/50 tickets. Refreshments consisted of decorated bags of jelly beans that Joni brought to share. Raffle items consisted of five bottles, a shot glass, and another clock donation from Paul Dragos. The raffle brought in \$91 and the 50/50 \$73. Larry Westfall won the cash. The first raffle ticket drawn was Tami Harman's, followed by David Vilett, Pat Walker (who chose the clock, again), Jeff McGreevy, Tami again, Jeff again – but he gave his winning ticket to Matt Patterson, and Tom Dunning

PROGRAM: Our program this month was about embroidered Samplers, given

by Paul Dragos. Paul shared that these samplers were first recorded in the 1600s. They were samples of needlework stitches. Wealthy families would send their daughters to finishing school where the girls learned stitching skills. Common motifs included the alphabet, numerals 1 through 10, and simple design elements (flowers, trees, etc.). These samplers became more prevalent after the 1800s and included more designs as well as verse (poetry). Their popularity waned after 1900. Paul shared his three examples. His first one as made by Sarah Staniforth in 1810, which he bought in Dublin, Ireland in 2017. His second one was made in 1864 and is small including only a large star and wording "Union Star" "wrought by SEL" and bordered by "X" motifs at top and bottom. His oldest example was made in 1793 by Elizabeth Chappel – filled with the alphabet and poem at the bottom. Paul likes to connect to the past with such old items. And samplers have the creator's name and date on them.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

*.Submitted by,
Carol Serr
Secretary*



Monitor Top Refrigerators and Collectables

By Paul Dragos

In 1927, General Electric (GE) released the first “affordable” refrigerator to the American Public. While still extremely expensive at \$300 (about \$5,000 today) it was a milestone in bringing the



newly introduced science of refrigeration into the home. The instantly recognizable appliance, with the condenser on top, used sulfur dioxide as the refrigerant, and placed it above the box because the process produced a lot of heat; it was best dissipated out the top of the unit. A lot of us might remember this in our homes, as they continued to be sold until the early 1940s, and being extremely well built, some are still in use today! Did you know that a whole line of collectibles regarding the Monitor Top refrigerator is available and out there for us to find? For example, the clock.

It may seem a bit odd today, when someone purchased the GE monitor top refrigerator between 1928 and 1931, they received one of these clocks for FREE. While GE was well known for its appliance division, they wanted to get the word out that they manufactured other household items, such as clocks. There were three versions of this clock and in total, over 21,000 were built. This one pictured is the rarest (recognized by the extra-long General Electric emblem) and can fetch \$1,000-\$3,000 for an excellent example. The other two variants have



subtle changes and can range from \$350 to \$600. It was a nice item to include with the sale, but wait, there is more.

Also, when you purchased the refrigerator you received a complete set of GE-embossed storage dishes, an early version of Tupperware to store your leftovers and tomorrow night’s supper. Prices for these vary a great deal, and it is hard to find a complete set, but if you are lucky enough and it is in good condition, you can expect to pay anywhere from \$150 to \$300. Just when you thought it could not get any better...



from \$50-100.

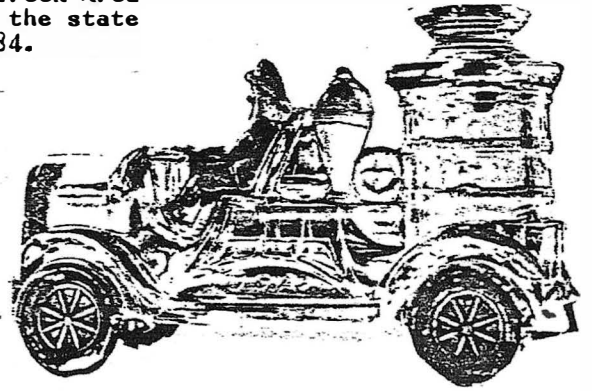
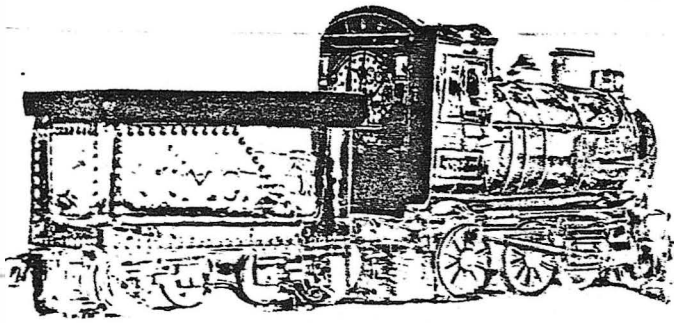
And if you thought that was enough; an entire menagerie of monitor-top collectibles is available. In this picture we see a small bank, a sugar bowl, salt and pepper shakers, and a larger bank or miniature-house decoration. There is some controversy on whether the salt and pepper shakers, and sugar bowl were included with the purchase of the refrigerator or bought separately. I have heard both answers. They are very reasonable to start collecting, ranging anywhere from \$30 to \$100 per item.

So, next time you are browsing your favorite website or at a garage sale and see something Monitor-Top related, go ahead and check it out; it might be the beginning of a beautiful collection.

You were ALSO provided with a GE embossed water bottle, to always have a cold drink ready in your new refrigerator. These appear in two different colors: the green and the clear. I can't find any information if there was a certain time period one color was overtaken by the other, or it just worked out two colors were from different manufacturers. The green is the rarer of the two, it can fetch \$150, while the clear usually is anywhere



The following article was gleaned from the Battle Creek Area Antique and Bottle Memorabilia Club's newsletter in the state of Michigan, via the Federation Letter, November 1984.



A BIT ABOUT CANDY BOTTLES
By Jim Lockmiller

As bottle diggers, we often unearth these cute little glass novelties known to us only as candy containers. But what do we really know about these fancy little glass outcasts?

As the name Candy Container implies, they were used to hold colorful little candies. The earliest ones were closed with a metal screw cap or a metal slide on strip while later ones were closed with a card board strip. Most of the containers that we dig fall into the early category, so I will stick mainly with these for this article.

These containers date back at least to 1776 when a glass Liberty Bell with a pewter cap, and marked "1776 Centennial Exp. 1876" was sold at the Centennial Expo. in Philadelphia.

Although most of these containers were thought to have been sold as toys, quite a few were sold for other reasons. Many, such as the Liberty Bell, were sold as souvenirs. In the 1890's candy filled glass lanterns were sold in railroad stations and even on the trains. Also, many candy bottles in the shape of suitcases and clocks are found with hotel and city names on them.

It also seems that some containers were used as vote getters, as politicians of the period gave away candy filled glass hats.

Some candy bottles were also sold as commemorative items, such as the airplane "Spirit of St. Louis" and the Electric Car, which were put on the market shortly after historic events related to them.

Still others were sold at different holidays such as Santa Claus containers at Christmas, Rabbits and Chicks at Easter, and Jack-O-Lanterns and Witches at Halloween.

It wasn't until sometime after 1920 when many variations of the lanterns, locomotives, autos, fire engines, guns, etc., had been marketed that they began to be thought of as toys.

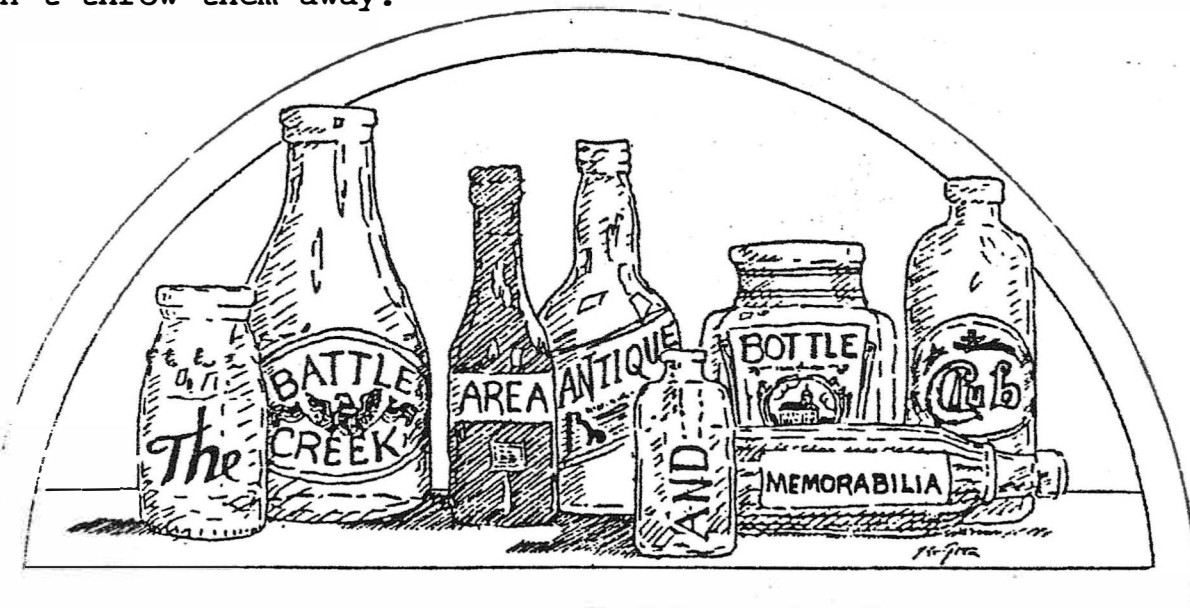
Now that we know a bit as to why they were made, let's take a look at a couple of the companys that made the early containers.

West Brothers Co. also known as Westmorland Specialty Co. of Grapeville, Pa. was one of the pioneer candy container manufacturers. Among their containers marked "West Bros. Co., Grapeville, Pa." are the following: The suitcase with straps made about 1906: the rare Jitney Bus with metal wheels, sides, and top was made about 1914. Unfortunately, most of these that have been dug are probably like mine - minus wheels, sides and top which have long since rusted away.

Another early glass company which made candy containers is the L.E.Smith Co. of Mount Pleasant, Pa. A few of their marked bottles are the "Dog by Barrel" marked L.E.Smith Co. Net. Wt. 1½ oz. I have a Charlie Chaplin that I dug and while Charlie is in great shape the barrel is severely damaged. The L.E.Smith Co. is still in business.

Another early company, Vail Bros. of Philadelphia, Pa. has been credited with making or handling the "Electric Coupe" auto which is marked Pat-Feb. 18, 1913, and two revolver-type guns with a "VB" monogram on the grip many also be from this company.

Many companys made many of these containers, so keep your eyes open as you dig. Even chipped and cracked containers and ones with broken heads or tails may still have some value, so don't throw them away.



March 2024 Meeting



A Great Program on Samplers by Paul Dragos



Doug Porter Doing Some Looking



Matt Patterson Checking Out What's For Sale



Paul's Favorite Samplers



Larry Westfall with His 50/50 Winnings



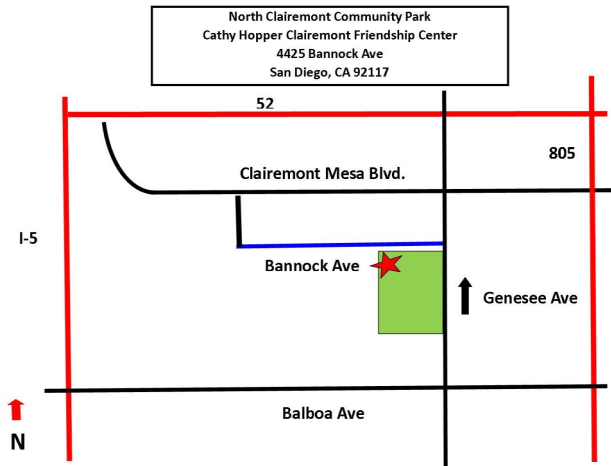
New Member, Betty Frizzell



Tami Harman, first ticket drawn

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

This Meetings Raffle Items



JACKSON'S NAPA SODA
SNUFF CRUDE GOLDEN AMBER
QUEEN CITY DAIRY PINT
BALBOA BEST BEER BREWED AMBER QT.
SAN DIEGO SELTZER, PACIFIC BEVERAGES CO.
UMBRELLA 8 SIDED INK, AQUA PONTIL

PROGRAMS

Subject To Change

- JAN. 18** Extended Show & Tell
FEB. 15 Presidio Glass and Other Artifacts by **Steve Van Wormer**
MAR.21 Samplers by **Paul Dragos**
APR. 18 High End Watches by **Paul Dragos**
MAY 16 Metal Detecting by **Jim Walker**
JUN. 20 ACL Sodas by **Mike Bryant**
NO MEETING JULY & AUGUST – PICNIC INFO WILL BE PROVIDED
SEPT. 19 Bottle BINGO & Ice Cream Social
OCT. 17 SW Crague by **Jon Lawson**
NOV. 21 WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!!!

REFRESHMENTS

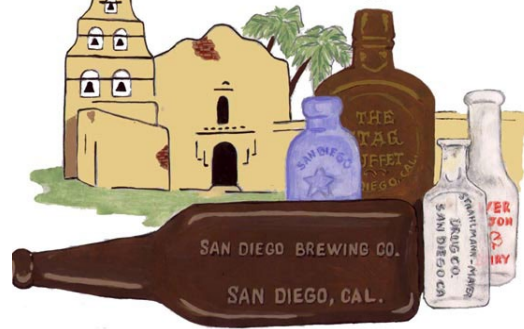
- The Walkers
Jeff McGreevy
Mary Nokes
Paul Dragos
The Hinners
The Westfalls
Mike & Dixie
Nancy Fowler & Lynn Stafford

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS INFO WILL BE PROVIDED

MEETINGS START AT AROUND 5:30 PM



Antique Bottle Club
of San Diego



Save The Date

San Diego 2024

Antiques, Collectibles, & Bottles, Show & Sale
Saturday June 22, 2024

Al Bahr Shrine Temple

DISPLAYS

5440 Kearny Mesa Rd

RAFFLES

San Diego, CA 92111

Come For The Day, Spend The Weekend
Close To Hotels, Beaches, Sea World & The Zoo

Dealer Set-up
"Early Bird"

6:30 AM

7:00-9:00 AM \$15.00

Free General Admission 9:00AM – 3:00 PM

Kids under 12 free with adult

Mike Bryant Chairman

INFO: Jim Walker (858) 490-9019

Jfwalker43@gmail.com



San Diego Antique Bottle Club
www.sdbottleclub.org

FREE PARKING

AWARDS FOR DISPLAYS

Why You Should Sell in San Diego

- **Low table prices for 2024. \$60 for one table, second table \$55**
- **Over 20 million potential buyers within 100 miles of show site**
- **Plenty of room for sellers with over 6000 sq ft of selling space and room for over 60 plus tables**
- **Plenty of free parking, and our members will help with unloading and loading of your vehicles**
- **Hey, it's San Diego! California's Number 1 tourist destination**
- **The world famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World & Legoland are only minutes away from the show site**
- **The weather is nice with the average June temperature of 71 degrees**
- **Over 70 miles of beaches and 90 plus golf courses for your pleasure**
- **Why not come for the day, and stay for the weekend. Make it a mini-vacation**

And Most Importantly:

YOU WILL HELP PROMOTE THE HOBBY, & INSURE FUTURE SHOWS