

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

January 2025

Volume 60 Issue 1

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Open



16th Charter Member
FHBC



Prez Sez

by

Jim Walker

2025
Our 60th
Year

Hello to all you "BOTTLENECKERS" for January 2025. Here's the first newsletter for the "BOTTLENECKERS" in 2025! Our renowned Newsletter editor, Mike Bryant, passed away right after Christmas and your Vice President, Paul Dragos has volunteered to act as Editor, until further notice. I'm looking forward to working with Paul in an effort to keep our newsletter in your mailbox! I'm sure he'll accept any input we can provide. The January meeting on the 16th will be interesting as all the raffle bottles in my possession will be displayed on several tables for your review! You'll be impressed and the fun part is one lucky raffle ticket holder will get to pick ONE bottle from the big pile, then an additional 5 bottles will round out the raffle, so plan on buying a bunch of raffle tickets! Remaining bottles will be cycled through subsequent meeting raffles. I'd like to welcome Doug Porter and Matt Hampton to their new positions on the club's board. Doug will take over the membership/roster duties from the VP, with Matt relieving Dixie of treasury duties. Please support them while they're getting broke in Other positions remain covered with officers in place. I'm looking forward to a productive 2025, to include our annual Bottle Show. More details on a show at this meeting. I must give a shout out to Tim & Laura Schweighart for hosting another great Christmas Party. They are truly a blessing to our club. Thanks guys!! We'll soon have more info on Mike Bryant's funeral service, etc, to be shared with all members. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bryant family in this time of sorrow

PROPER DISTANCE TO HIM WAS BUNK ,TIL THEY PULLED HIM OUT OF SOME GUY'S TRUNK! BURMASHAVE!



www.sdbottleclub.org

2025 dues are due! So
definitely Due!

2016 & 2013 FOHBC First Place Newsletter Award



Bottle Club Meeting minutes 11/21/24 minutes

President Jim Walker called the meeting to order at 6:01PM and led us in the pledge of allegiance. There were two guests: Jenny Brown, from Poway who came with her bottle collecting friend Mary Love Rueda from Ramona.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer DIXIE BRYANT presented the balance minus money still out for purchasing more raffle bottles.

Editor MIKE BRYANT thanked Paul Dragos for submitting his article and thanked Dixie for helping him type up the pages. **Sunshine Chair** PAT WALKER informed us that Larry Westfall was absent tonight because he is recuperating from breaking his knee when he fell at the Auburn Bottle Show after-party! **Membership** PAUL DRAGOS reported that he has coerced Doug Porter to take over this role "tentatively" and gave him a laptop with the roster files. **Historian** this position still needs someone to take it on.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul sold more tickets for the antique GE refrigerator clock raffle, winner was drawn at our Christmas party at the Schweighart's patio Dec. 14. There will be a gift exchange "game" at the party for those who want to partake. Please bring an anonymous wrapped gift, valued at \$10 (or more), and indicate the gender with a label, if needed. There will be door prizes also.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim asked for a review of the Auburn Bottle Show. Matt Hampton said it was good, some nice bottles.

Dave Vilett asked why the Club doesn't scan the old photo albums and scrapbooks to have a digital copy (and not need to store the files). Jim informed him that such an endeavor was too costly unless a Club member wants to volunteer to do this at their home.

Other than Doug Porter taking on Membership, there are no changes to the slate of officers. But Dixie needs to step down from her position as Treasurer. Matt Hampton will take over.

SHOW N TELL

Tom Dunning brought examples of compact bottle "blanks" that are then blown into full size plastic bottles. Matt Hampton shared the San Diego pharmacy bottles and crate that he got at the Auburn Show. Guest Mary Love Rueda showed the blob top and Hutchinson bottles she found recently on her ranch in Ramona. She discovered our Club when she found our website and webmaster Jeff encouraged her to attend our meeting to ask about her bottles. Joni Cooley shared two womens shoe-shaped ink bottles.



BREAK

Before the auction, we enjoyed yummy snacks brought by Priscilla & Mike Hinners. There is no raffle or 50/50 tonight due to the auction. Jim thanked all those who have sold tickets at our meetings in the past.

WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

Jim Walker was once again our auctioneer, assisted by Paul Dragos (delivery guy & money taker), while Carol Serr kept track of the items sold. All the proceeds go into our treasury (for buying raffle items, party food, etc.). The auction brought in \$292. A Big **thanks** to all who donated and purchased items!



Submitted by

Carol Serr

Secretary



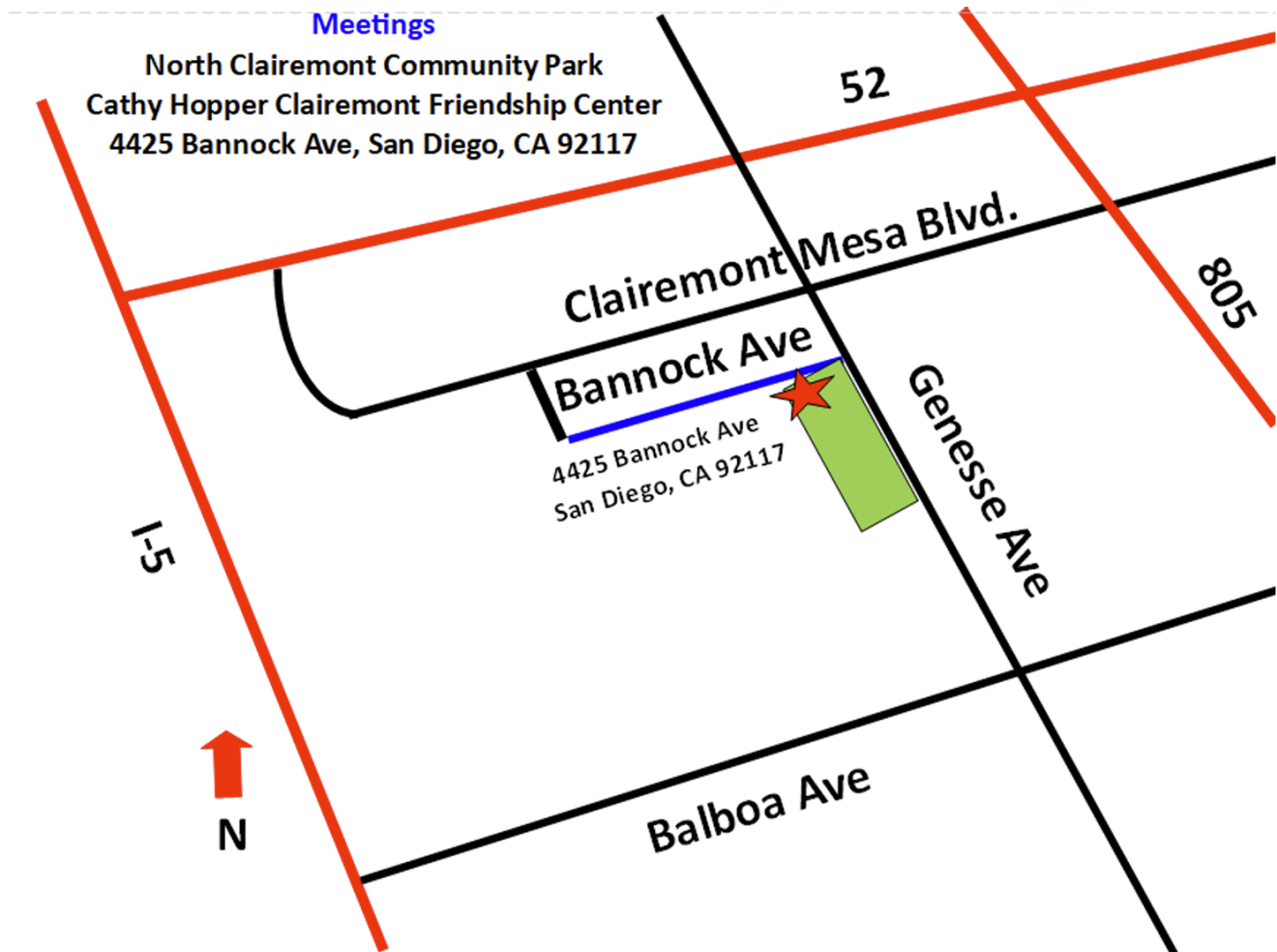
2025 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!!!

Please pay your \$20 membership fee at the meeting by speaking with the treasurer, or mail to:

SDABCC
7770 Regents Road, STE 113-326
San Diego CA 92122

If you have any changes to your status or address please fill out the attached membership form and present it to a club officer.

Thank you for continuing to support your club and our Hobby!





Editor's Corner

As the new year starts, we find some changes within our club, one of which I am now taking over the Editor's position for the Newsletter. This is (obviously) my first attempt, and I can make no promises other than I will do my best to make these interesting, informative and fun to read; but I need your help. Please, send me articles, pictures, ideas, funny stories, serious stories, whatever you can that will enlighten this publication. I look forward to giving this a shot, but we must work together to make it successful. I will throw some random thoughts in here every edition, they may be of a satirical, philosophical, or off-the-wall nature, but this space I take as my prize for being the editor. This one, however, will be short, and of a serious tone. I wanted to take over Editor some day, as I have done these publications for our sister club, but I never expected it to be this fast. Mike Bryant was an exceptional and award-winning Editor. To say he did a fantastic job on this publication is a severe understatement, I will try, but doubt I'll come anywhere close to the success he achieved with all his hard work. This month's Editor's corner is dedicated to our departed member and Friend, Mike Bryant. You were an instrumental part of our organization Mike, selflessly devoting hours and hard work to make this club a success. I am glad your health difficulties are over, and you are in a much better place now, but know, you will be dearly missed. Here is to you Mike, Rest In Peace.



**Larry Westfall, Mike Bryant & Jim Walker
Showing Mike's Four F.O.H.B.C. Awards**

MYSTERY SOLVED!!!! By Paul Dragos



One of the general items I collect are Monitor-Top refrigerator

“Gimmies.” From the years 1928 to 1931, when you purchased a General Electric Monitor-Top refrigerator, you received several freebies along with the unit. These included a clock, modeled after the refrigerator, salt and pepper shakers, also looking like the refrigerator, a sugar bowl, (same look) and glass dishes for leftovers. In addition, you received a glass water bottle. This came in one of two colors, either green or clear, and had an image of the refrigerator embossed as well as the words: “General Electric Refrigerator.” Here is a picture of the two bottles, along with other freebies.



There were only two bottles, clear and green.... Right? Well, imagine my surprise when I saw a picture of a bottle, that looked exactly the same, in **AMBER**.



That... that can't be... It sure LOOKS like the typical GE Refrigerator bottle, but ... but those only came in either clear or green. Is this a one-off? Some kind of trick of the viewing light?

No... I saw it on line, and the caption clearly read: "AMBER refrigerator bottle." I HAVE to get this....

OOOOPS!!!!!! It was already sold.



Thus started my four month quest to find this AMBER refrigerator Bottle. Being OCD, of course this meant I would do whatever it took to find that version, it could cost millions of dollars, disrupt thousands of lives, possibly lead to another mass extinction but **I HAD TO HAVE IT!!** I searched the internet incessantly, asked club members, (the word "Pestered" would be more appropriate") even stopped people walking by on the street; (court cases are still pending), where could I get one of those amber refrigerator bottles!? If you think I was surprised to find out an AMBER bottle existed, imagine my astonishment to discover THIS:



A BLUE ONE!!!!!! And... and.... And a GREEN-TINT!!!!!!!!!! Am I losing my mind? I have been collecting the GE refrigerator bottles for 20 years! There ARE ONLY TWO colors, clear or green! Yet... here they are.

Considering my sanity on the verge of disintegrating.... I researched even more, and was able to purchase the other colored bottles. It wasn't until I literally were holding them in my hands, I discovered the truth:

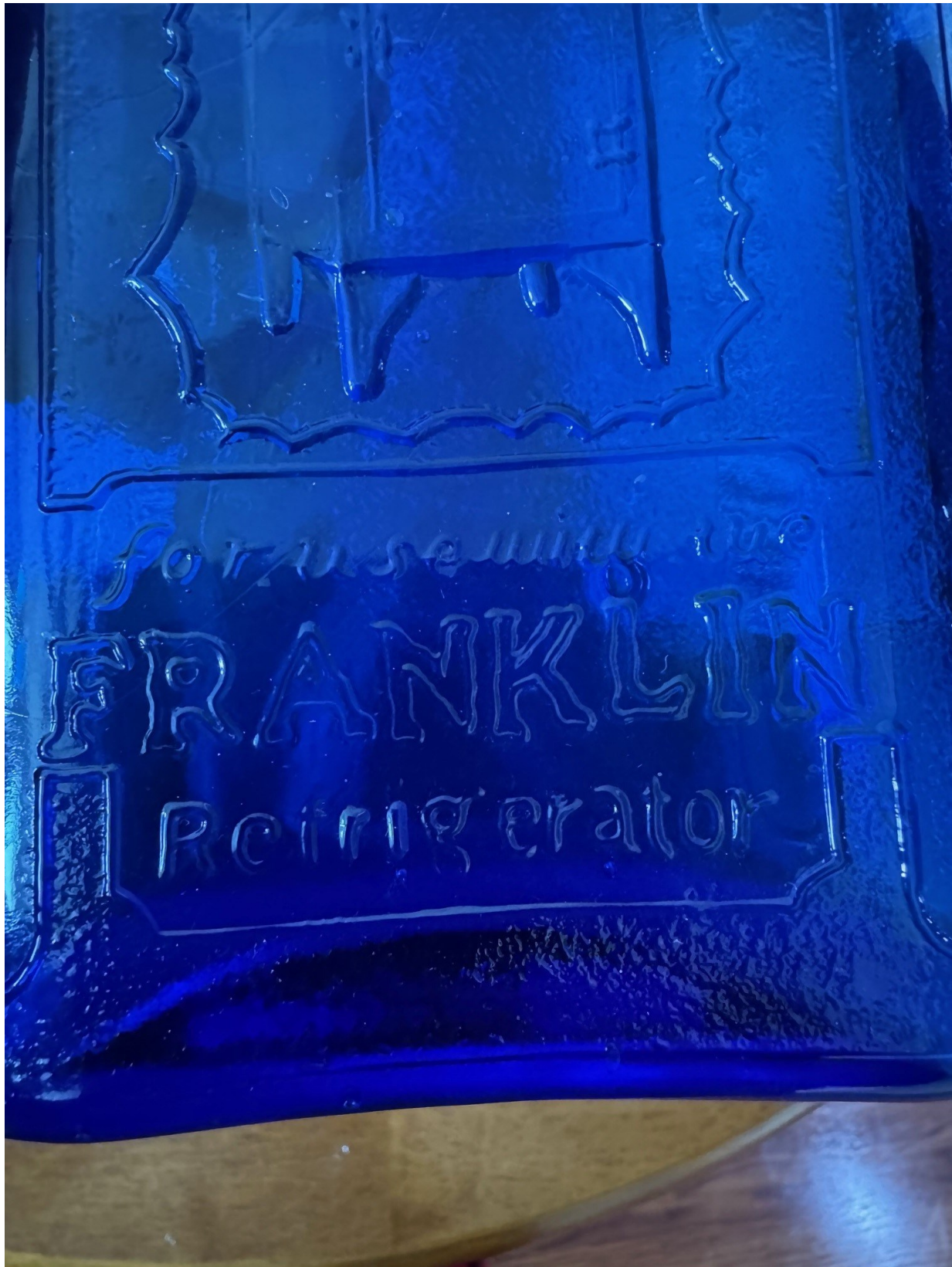
Back in the 20s and 30s, GE was NOT the only manufacturer of a Monitor-Top type refrigerator. They were, by far, the most popular, but not the only. Another manufacturing company, FRANKLIN refrigerators, made models almost identical to the General Electrics. They ALSO gave away freebies, including a water bottle when you

bought their refrigerator, and they ALSO had their bottles made by the SAME GLASS company. I must add a footnote here in that I believe that company is the Owens-Illinois glass company, but am still seeking certain confirmation on that point. It was not until I held the bottles in my hand, and READ the labels, I solved the mystery of the different-colored refrigerator bottles.



The GEs, only came in clear or Green, the Franklin's, which looked identical except for the embossed name, came in Amber, Green tint, and Blue.





The thousands of people were spared, and I expanded my collection to include both Franklin and General Electric water bottles. Collecting is always about solving mysteries, and this was a fun one to discover!



Pictures from the Christmas Party



Great Food!



Bartering at the For Sale Table



The Christmas Present Table!!!!



Happy People!!!



**Our wonderful hosts receive a
gift card, Thank You AGAIN!!!!**



Nice Bottles for sale or trade!



Enough Food?



Nice Items at the Raffle Table



Happy People





Mike and his lovely wife, Dixie.

Programs



And Refreshments



Jan 16 Extended Show and Tell

Paul Dragos

Feb 20 TBD

Monteith's

Mar 20 TBD

Open

April 17 TBD

Open

May 15 2025

Westfall's

June—Special Date, Stay Tuned

Open

Thursday Meetings to begin around 5:30 PM



\$236.50



\$61.00



\$117.50 & \$96.22



\$89.88



\$78.00



\$20.55

**San Diego Items
Recently Sold on Ebay**

**E
B
SAN DIEGO
Y**

Dairy Mart 1/2 Gal.....\$236.50
East San Diego Dairy Pt.....\$117.50 & \$96.22
Escondido Soda Works.....\$89.88
East San Diego Dairy 1/2 Pt.....\$78.00
Amber PMD Dairy 1/2 Pt.....\$61.00
Escondido Rolfes Pharmacy.....\$20.55



BLAST FROM THE PAST These pages will showcase past Bottle-necker Articles, this one, written by Mike Bryant in February of 2002

San Diego's Mountain Meadow Milk Bottle Mystery
By Mike Bryant

Nestled in a valley some 70 miles east of San Diego, Mountain Meadow Dairy became a major producer of milk and dairy products in the resort town of Jacumba. Travelers would arrive from all over to partake in the hot mineral baths that this town was famous for. It was not uncommon to see some of Hollywood's biggest movie stars walking down the streets in the 1940's. Even today, there is a spa motel located there, where you can get a nice room and soak in a hot mineral pool and spa.

There has been a story for years about a ravine or canyon in Jacumba that was full of Mountain Meadow milk bottles. These milk bottles, especially the highly sought after cream-tops, are scarce, and fetch a premium when you can find one. You might remember that Jim Walker dug one of these bottles at a club dig we had in Jacumba a couple years ago. Anyhow, I decided to try and track down this treasure trove of milk bottles, and headed east to Jacumba. After talking to a couple locals, I was given the name of a gentleman who's family owned the dairy in the 1930's and 40's. If anybody could help me, I was told that Bill Ketchem would be the one.

According to Bill, Mountain Meadows Dairy started in 1927. One of his jobs when he joined the dairy in 1937 was the ordering of milk bottles. At that time, a half-gross (72) of bottles cost the dairy \$12.00. That works out to \$.16 a bottle. Doesn't sound that much until you realize that the minimum wage in 1940 was \$.30 an hour. With the minimum wage today of \$6.75, that bottle would cost \$3.37! They did not have recycling then, and many of the milk bottles that left the dairy, never returned. So around 1940, they started phasing in milk cartons, and phasing out bottles to lower operating costs. In 1945, the dairy was sold to a Mr. Sorreano, and it became an Arden Dairy.

So what about the hidden cache of milk bottles that were just waiting for me to rescue them? Well, when I asked Bill about this story, he kind of chuckled. Not true, he said. The only bottles that were ever dumped were broken or damaged. We would never throw away good bottles. When I inquired about the dump for the dairy, he told me it had been picked through many, many times over the years, and in fact, the ground has been turned over at least five times. There was absolutely nothing there anymore.

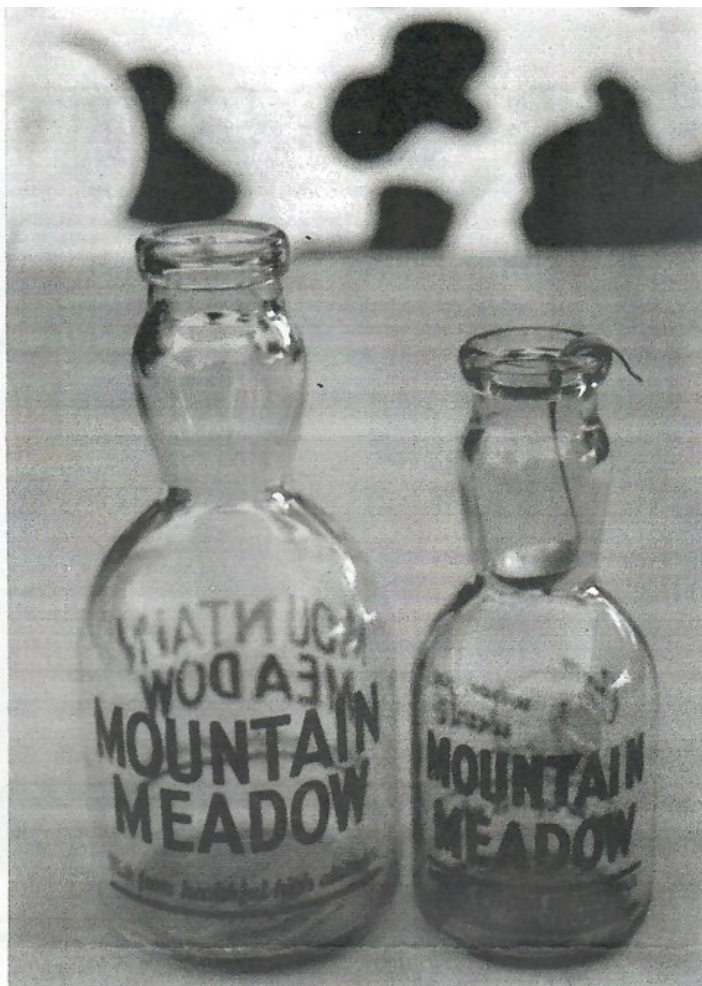
I'll take Bill's word on that, but I think I would still like to check it out for myself. I'd rather spend a day searching and find nothing than spend a day doing nothing!

*****UPDATE*****

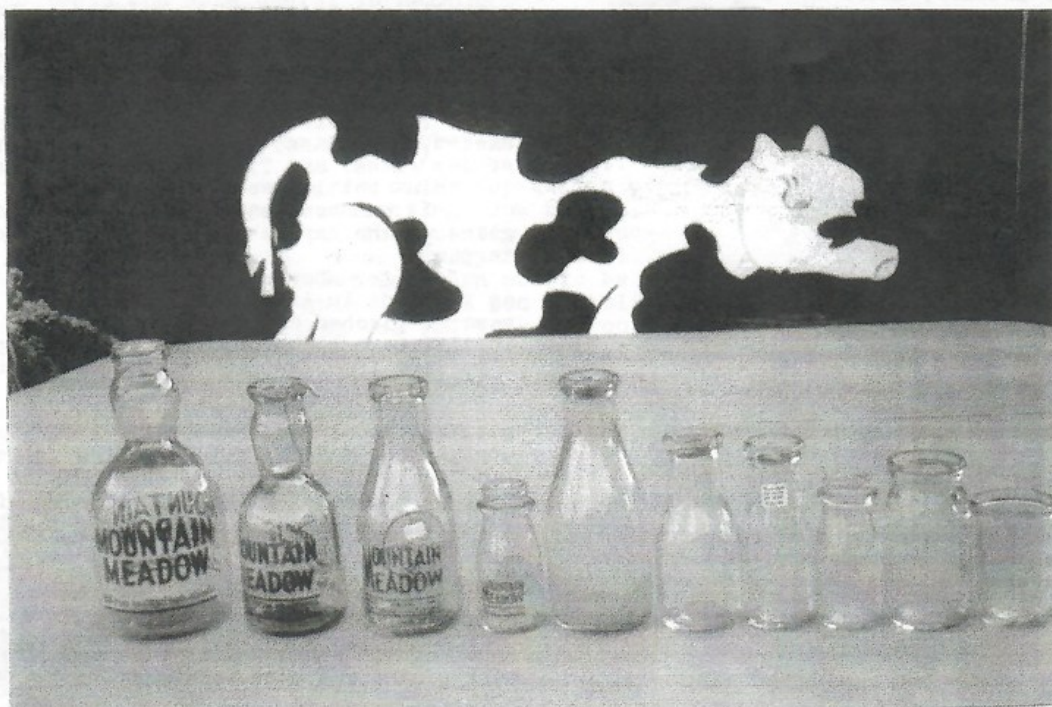
Before he moved, Rurik told me that 15 years ago, a friend of his told him that he had found a canyon full of milk bottles in Jacumba. Rurik was not privileged to the location.

The club has received permission from the landowner to dig again in the old Jacumba dump. Watch for information later in the spring.

Frank Pekarek will do a program this year on San Diego milks, and will bring examples of Mountain Meadows bottles. Here will be your chance to see the only cream top from San Diego. Details to follow.



The only San Diego "Cream Tops"

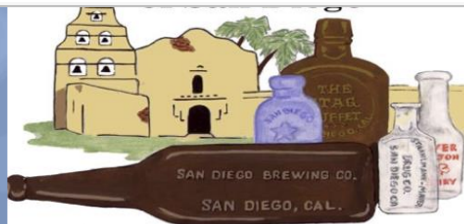


Frank Pekarek's San Diego Mountain Meadows Collection



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

"One of The World's Oldest Active
Bottles and Collectibles Club"



Member Information:
January is Annual Renewal Time
***Dues are \$20 per Household or**
Single Member for the calendar
year or any part

Name Tags are Available for \$10
Mail Check made to SDABCC to 7770 Regents
Rd, Suite 113-326 San Diego, CA 92122

- Meetings: Cathy Hopper Clairemont Friendship Center, 4425 Bannock AVE, San Diego CA 92117
- Time & Dates: 6:00-9:00 PM 3rd Thursday of Month except July, August, and December (Holiday Party)
- Purpose: To foster the preservation and study of antique bottles and all other collectibles through research, education and the sharing of knowledge.
- What: We are collectors representing San Diego County; we collect everything from antique bottles and jugs to historical artifacts, railroad items, paper advertising etc. Bottle hobbyists collect other items and are interested in all collections.

Each year this waiver form must be signed by each member to participate in club activities and to update the club directory. Please return it with your annual membership dues written to "SDABCC".

Effective Dates: January 1, (year) through December 31, (year)

I, the undersigned, hereby waive my rights to any claim against, and release from any liability, the SAN DIEGO ANTIQUE BOTTLE & COLLECTIBLES CLUB, its officers, directors, committee chairpersons, and other club members for personal injuries, death or property damage in connection with my participation in the San Diego Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club, including, but not limited to, all transportation, club meetings, special and social events, such as shows and parties, and defects to equipment provided or sold. I acknowledge that there are risks and dangers involved in my participation in the San Diego Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club and its events. However, I personally assume all of the risks, known and unknown to me, of participation, not otherwise covered by insurance.

A waiver is "The voluntary relinquishment of a right, privilege, claim or advantage". To release is "to set free from worry, pain, obligation, penalty, etc., or free from something that holds, binds, etc."

I have read, and do fully understand, the above statement. I am signing this document, granting this waiver and release, and participating in the San Diego Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club and its events voluntarily, with full knowledge and assumption of any risks involved, not otherwise covered by insurance.

Members 18 years of age and older:

Print Name

Signature

Date

Members under 18 years of age, this waiver and release must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

As parent or legal guardian of:

_____ I hereby execute this form on said person's behalf and further agree to indemnify the San Diego Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club, its officers, directors, and members for any damage it/they may suffer due to injuries incurred by participating in the club.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

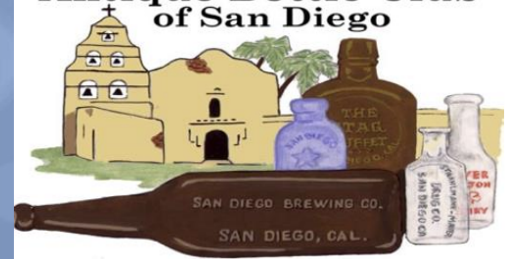




ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

"One of The World's Oldest Active
Bottles and Collectibles Club"

Antique Bottle Club of San Diego



Date

Print Name above to Order Badge with magnet-add \$10 to dues

Primary Member Name Listing in Directory

Other Household Member Name

Directory Information

Home Phone

Primary Cell Phone

Primary Email Address

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Collects

Other Household Member Cell Phone

Other Household Member Email Address

Other Household Member Collects

Club activity interests (meetings, shows, digs

social events, programs, research etc.)

Previous Officer in Club?

Interested in Volunteering?