

Chasing The Western Flasks

By Ralph Van Brocklin

Penning my last flask column six months ago I had the air conditioning running and was distracted by thoughts of being out on the golf course. This morning as I place pen to paper, it is lightly snowing and the East Tennessee countryside is absolutely beautiful! No golf to distract me this day (unless I turn on the Pebble Beach coverage), which is probably just as well as I have many miles of travels and many bottles to cover!

Traveling Oregon

Mid-October saw me headed to the show at Canyonville, Oregon. A couple of days were spent with my friend Dale Mlasko during which we poked around Jacksonville and Medford, not finding anything, but getting some permissions that he should now be taking advantage of with the ground finally soft!

When you are visiting with Dale, you really don't have to find anything, because you can just get lost in the beauty of the flasks in his back-lighted display case. I still covet his Angeli flask which was dug off a lot in Monterey, California, by a couple of the guys I used to be in the Mission Trails Historical Bottle Club with back in my younger days. Whittled, light amber... what a great bottle! And, he has probably the best Small Design Millers known to man—intensely whittled, green and mint. A nice Jesse Moore, Old Castle, Large Design Millers... there is not a bottle that fails to captivate!

Dale, Melissa (soon to be Mrs. Mlasko – congratulations, you two!) and I drove up to Canyonville for what is certainly one of the nicest venues for a show anywhere in the West!

Bruce Silva, Keith Lunt, Dave Scafani



Figure 1a: Canyonville show scene.

and Bill Bogynska have built a show which consistently brings in nice items and quality dealers from Oregon, Washington and Northern California. [Figures 1a-d] Flask additions were not as plentiful for me at this show as they have been in some years past, but I did add a gorgeous chocolate-amber private mold Fleckenstein and Mayer half-pint union oval (unusual in having considerable whittling) [Figure 2], a The Eintracht amber half-pint dandy from San Diego and a clear half-pint Herman Fritz dandy flask, also from San Diego. The prettiest flask in the hall was offered by Rocky Becker—a yellow with green overtones slug plate Fleckenstein and Mayer union oval half pint. This flask is now in Medford, adding yet more color to Dale's shelves!

Other very nice offerings of flasks were found on the tables of Randy Littlefield of Milwaukie, Oregon and Jim Dennis of Dufur, Oregon. Among the offerings were an assortment of Oregon flat flasks, coffins and pumpkinseeds. The crème of the crop of these was an early pint shoofly embossed with Fleckenstein and Mayer and the AAA Old Valley brand [Figure 3]. A combination of factors make this one of the top Western clear flasks — it is an early bottle, it draws an association between one of the favorite brands of whiskey distributed in the West with one of the significant firms on the



Figure 3: Fleckenstein & Mayer, AAA Old Valley pint shoofly

Pacific Coast and it is rare. Prior to one being offered for sale in a December EBay auction by Oregon collector Shayne Bowker, this was only the second one I had seen. Randy's did not sell — Shayne's sold to another serious Oregon flask collector, Garth Ziegenhagen, at what I would consider a great bargain— \$611.

I could not convince the Dean of Western Whiskey Dealing, Bob Barnett, to let me drive him to Canyonville for the show, so

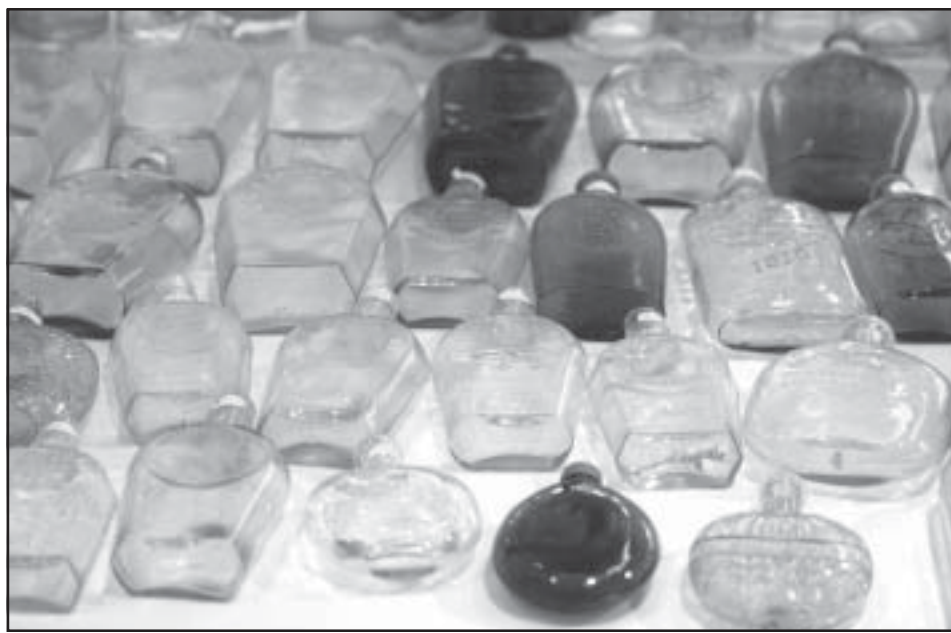


Figure 1b: Some of the flasks offered on Randy Littlefield's table in Canyonville.



Figure 1c: Canyonville Dealers

Figure 2: Fleckenstein & Mayer Union Oval, Private Mold

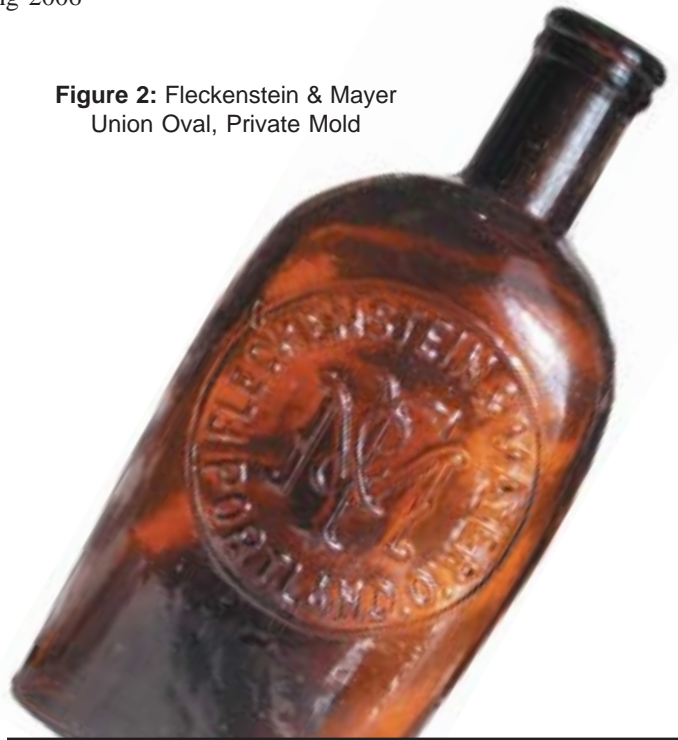


Figure 1d (above): Canyonville Insulator Display.



Figure 4: Crater Lake



Figure 11 (left): Ohio House, Placerville label only pumpkinseed



Figure 5: California Token flasks - Marysville, San Francisco, Oxnard



Figure 12a: AAA Old Valley, yellow olive.



Figure 12b: Group of four amber flasks: J.F. Cutter, C.P. Moorman, Fleckenstein & Mayer, Taussig.



Figure 12c-e (middle row, L-R): first, Lilienthal teardrop; second, Lilienthal "Cognac-style;" third, Three Cities Lilienthal
Figure 13 (middle row, fourth bottle): Half-pint Goudie & McKelvey amber shoofly



Figure 25 (above): Front and back of Old Gilt Edge flask

Figure 22 (left): Bonita Bar, Arcadia, Calif.



Figure 27: Gobe Saloon, Butte, Montana

when the show was over I made a trip out to Lakeview, Oregon, for a visit with Bob and his wife, June. Along the way, I made a side trip to Crater Lake, which I had not visited since a trip across the states with my parents following completion of sixth grade (39 years ago.... can that really be so????!). If you have never been there you need to make it a priority. In late October the park facilities are closed and the traffic is virtually non-existent. If you love the quiet serenity of the open West, you can experience it on a wind-swept overlook to one of the prettiest spots in the world [Figure 4 and cover background image].

Any collector of Western whiskey items will know Bob Barnett — most are aware that he turned his business over to Bruce Silva a couple of years ago following a significant accident and the health-related problems which followed. His presence is tremendously missed at the shows and I have particularly missed having he and June set up next to me at Auburn and Reno. It was great to see them and spend a day with them at their home!

Bob's friends will be happy to hear that he is up and about, although having to use some supplemental oxygen. Dealing remains in his blood and he told me he had been involved in brokering a land deal for a cattle firm he had previously worked with and that they were keeping him occupied with buying quality cattle and culling out the poor end of the herds. He didn't have any bottles squirreled back to deal, though... you'll have to see Bruce for those!

Digging, personalities in the hobby (if your ears were burning about that time, you can bet we were talking about you!), shows and bottle deals made for some wonderful conversation. We had some good laughs about some of the bottles I returned in the old days never to get another opportunity to put one on the shelf and we talked about all the great bottles he had brokered between one appreciative collector and another. He still finds it pretty amusing that I had been buying bottles from him for several years before making the comment, 'I'm going to get up to Lakeview to visit and see your collection,' only to be stunned by the comment that I could come and visit but that I wouldn't be viewing any more than a one- or two-bottle collection. I was dumbfounded by that until he explained that he had to make a decision early on whether he would be a dealer and, if so, that he would not be able to collect, too. The temptation to keep the best items would



Figure 6a: Colorado, Montana and Idaho shot glasses.



Figure 6b: Rieger & Co., Salt Lake City, shot glasses.

hamper that.... So, here I was finally making my first trip to Lakeview to visit (some 20 years into our friendship) and, yep, no collection! But, what wonderful hospitality from Bob and June and what a great visit!

A couple of more days riding the cinder-paved backroads of Oregon (you can bet the rental car company loved getting a formerly white, now dusty-red colored van back!) and I caught a flight to Salt Lake City to visit with Western whiskey friends Ivan Oakeson, Stan Sanders, Elvin Loader and Roger Terry.

Salt Lake City

Just as Bob Barnett has had some health issues, Stan Sanders has been battling bladder cancer and getting to shows has become impossible for him. So, I'll take the visit to him!!! And, considering that Mrs. Sanders has graciously cooked me my favorite meal of leg of lamb (and there is no one who can prepare it better — no one!) each of my last two visits, I am not sure if I'm doing Stan a favor by showing up on his doorstep or just looking after my own selfish culinary interests!!!

Sandwiched around dinner, I got the opportunity to meet a couple of his collecting friends in Salt Lake and we went

back through the Stan Sanders Bottle Museum. For those who have never seen or heard of this tribute to the collecting spirit, I hope that you get the opportunity to visit him sometime. Post cards, tokens, paper, historical research, bottles, stoneware, advertising.... Incredible! The first time I visited him I thought that a couple of hours would give me a pretty complete picture of his collection — days of viewing is more like what is required! Visiting with Stan is always a pleasure — only wish that he and I had known one another when he was making his fishing excursions down into the waters off Mexico. Talking politics, bottles, researching items... Friends, deals, shows... Good food, good spirits... Now that's a great visit! Hope that you are feeling well as you read this, Stan! I'll be out again, soon!

Following dinner, it was over to pick up Ivan for some visiting and a run down to Provo to visit with Elvin (Ben) Loader. Ben and I have been dealing back and forth almost as long as Bob Barnett and I — probably a good 20 years. When he sold his Western flask collection, Roger Terry and I were fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to purchase it and several of those bottles yet grace my shelves. I have never seen as pretty of a Crown

Shoulder Cutter as the one that came from him and his yellow-olive, half-pint Kane, O'Leary and Co. union oval is stellar.

Ben has sold most of his collection, but still loves to visit about collecting. We had a nice visit and he made available a number of shot glasses and four token flasks [Figures 5, 6 a-b]. The tokens included a pint GILT EDGE 32 EAST ST., S.F. and half-pints PALACE LUNCH MARYSVILLE, CALIF.

KNUDSEN & BREENJORD THE BEACH 212 EAST S.F.

DAVID COHN LIQUOR DEALER OXNARD, CAL.

Waiting for Ivan to get off work the following day gave me the chance to get up to Morgan, Utah and visit with Roger Terry. I never got to see his collection at its peak, but I wanted to see the great bottles I had heard he had retained and to see his acquisitions from the Blackie Owens collection. The Western bitters I saw would about knock your socks off — especially the square Boerhaave's Stomach Bitters and Alex Von Humboldt's Stomach Bitters! A nice run of Henley's and all those "Sole Agent" fifths from Blackie's collection! If Roger ever extends you an invitation, don't wait all the years I did. Take advantage of the opportunity to see some superb Western glass. Where else would one see three S.T. Suits fifths???

Ivan and I did not get to do any digging this trip, but hit a favorite restaurant prior to my flight back home and the realities of having to pay for my time off!

California

The first weekend of December saw my folks and I making the trip from their home in Salinas over to Auburn for the 49er Historical Bottle Club's show. This show is a favorite with the Western crowd and one you need to attend if you are thinking about being a collector of Western bottles. Visits with folks who I don't often see make this an enjoyable trip, even if I don't make any additions to my collection. This trip I got the opportunity to do both.

Friday set-up is typically a scramble for me. The show is held in two buildings and I am back and forth between the two. Unfortunately, my forays through one hall kept me from being in the other hall when some dynamite flasks came out! Luckily, Gary Webe came running with the word that Lane Puckett was putting out some rare flasks and I got there before everything was snapped up. But, to my dismay, one lucky

fellow was holding the Clinch and Company Grass Valley pumpkinseed and pint coffin. How he missed the half-pint shoofly from Clinch and Company [Figure 7] is beyond me, but it ended up in my hands and I was fortunate enough to add a Marysville pint pumpkinseed that I did not have, as well. Embossed W W WARD / GROTTO / MARYSVILLE [Figure 8], it is a fairly available pumpkinseed in the half-pint size, but I had not been able to acquire it in the larger size. Lane's other offerings included most of the Marysville coffins and pumpkinseeds other than the 4th Ward House and monogrammed Mountain Brook coffins. Samplings included [Figures 9 a-b]: Pint and half-pint DAN DONAHOE / MINT / SALOON / MARYSVILLE pumpkinseeds.

Pint and half-pint W T ELLIS & SON / WHITE SWAN / KENTUCKY / WHISKEY / MARYSVILLE, CAL pumpkinseeds.

Pint and half-pint GIBLIN - O'BRIEN / THE / ELITE / MARYSVILLE pumpkinseeds.

Pint and half-pint W W WARD / GROTTO / MARYSVILLE pumpkinseeds.

Pint and half-pint GROTTO SALOON / WARD & FRYE / PROP'S / MARYSVILLE, CAL. pumpkinseeds.

Half pint MOUNTAIN BROOK / WHISKEY / JOHN W. STEWARD / MARYSVILLE / CAL pumpkinseed.

Pint and half-pint MOUNTAIN BROOK / WHISKEY / JOHN L. STEWARD / MARYSVILLE / CAL coffins.

Prices ranged between \$150 and \$500 on all but the Clinch and Company flasks and the majority of the bottles sold over the two day show.

Smarting a little after losing out on two bottles I am not likely to get another chance to own, I walked back over to the other building to find my friend Dennis Strader setting up and... he had brought with him the one Monterey County flask which I had long sought — a pint pumpkinseed embossed THE BISMARK / J L WHITE / MONTEREY, CAL. [Figure 10]! Strong on the price, but a bottle I had to have! A little wheeling and dealing on a few other bottles that I might make a little on to reduce the price on the 'seed and ... DENNIS, YOU MADE MY SHOW!!! Now I need the half-pint ... (That's the great thing about collecting — there is always something else to chase!)

Other additions made at this show were a label-only, half-pint pumpkinseed OLD



Figure 7: Clinch & Co. half-pint.



Figure 8: WW Ward Grotto pint pumpkinseed.

MOORMAN VERY FINE STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY BOTTLED BY OHIO HOUSE PLACERVILLE CAL [Figure 11] and a half-pint San Francisco coffin flask embossed D CHESNEY / 113 GRANT AVE / & / 129 SIXTH ST / S.F.

There were a few other flasks here and there within the show, but no large



Figure 9a: Above: Grotto Saloon and White Swan pumpkinseeds from Marysville, Calif.



Figure 9b: Dan Donahoe Mint Saloon, Marysville pint pumpkinseed and The Elite, Marysville half-pint pumpkinseed.



Figure 10: The Bismark, Monterey, pumpkinseed and D. Chesney, S.F. half-pint coffin flask.

groupings. Richard Siri had a nice Fleckenstein and Mayer knife-edge in a pretty yellow-amber and there were a couple of vertical Wormser flasks, as well. Joe Morrison offered a nice yellow-green Large Design Millers which I am not sure if sold or not (I blasted out of the show early to get back to Salinas in time to watch the UCLA-USC football matchup, only to be terribly disheartened by a thorough shellacking of my Bruins!)

While on the Coast this trip I also made the drive over to Shaver Lake to visit with my friend and fellow flask-enthusiast Gene Baker. Over the years he and I have done a lot of dealing and competing and he's one of those guys you just wish that you lived close to! He advises that he is planning upon retiring and taking up a shovel to do some digging, so if you live up in that area you might give him a shout. I've spent too much money on bottles to retire, so I'm not in a position to join him in his digging years just yet!

Gene's collection includes a number of pumpkinseed flasks which I have not been able to acquire and I took advantage of the visit to photograph these bottles for my book on Western flasks (which I swear will eventually make it to print!!!) I was impressed with the grouping he has put together — more extensive than I had envisioned and I really enjoyed seeing the other categories he collects, including Western cylinders, bitters, blacking bottles and ammonias. His amber ammonia with multi-colored swirls may be one of the prettiest bottles I have seen.

Private Sales

In the interim between my last column and now, I am aware of only a few private sales of individual flasks and no large groupings. Included among these was a clear pint pictorial coffin flask embossed R. C. MAGOR / WHOLESALE / LIQUOR DEALER / (embossed teapot) / RAWLINS, WY. Warren Borton, in his book *Wyoming Bottles – Historical Bottles of Wyoming 1868-1910*, notes that Richard Magor was in Rawlins from 1880 until his death in 1901, which helps us date the flask. Considered rare, this flask traded hands in the \$800-\$1,000 range.

Other flasks parting company with prior owners included the Jesse Moore which Roger Terry and I had acquired from Ben Loader in the purchase of his collection. A superb bottle, it has been well-traveled, going from Ben to Roger to me, then to Ted Siri to Richard Siri and now back to Roger! Richard also sold the Old Bourbon Castle I wrote about last time, Ken Schwartz being the proud new owner. An amber union oval LOUIS TAUSSIG / 205 & 207 / BATTERY STREET / S.F. changed hands for \$1,250 and a half-pint amber strap LILIENTHAL & CO / CINCINNATI / SAN FRANCISCO / & NY / DISTILLERS with a smoothed base flake realized \$450. A very rare amber shoofly flask, embossed J D HEISE & CO / GROCERIES / WINES / & / LIQUORS / SW COR VALENCIA & 16TH STR S.F. changed hands at \$2,400.

Auctions

And, on to the auctions...[Figures 12a-e]

American Bottle Auctions can always be counted upon for some offerings when it seems that no-one is going to offer a good flask again. Jeff Wichmann has changed formats to a more frequent offering of a lesser number of bottles, but he is still managing to offer some flasks in each auction. In September, one lucky bidder acquired a mint Lilienthal Teardrop at \$330. Other offerings that auction included a very rare union oval tooled top pint in yellow amber LIVINGSTON & CO / S.F. / 220 & 222 / CAL. ST. (\$3,740)

and an example of the Heise shoofly noted above (\$3,080). In the “Express” auctions, he realized an incredible \$1,210 on a light amber tooled top Lilienthal Distillers strap flask and \$1,320 on a very nice applied top amber flask embossed SPRUANCE STANLEY & CO / 410 / FRONT ST / S.F. A light to medium amber AAA OLD VALLEY netted \$1,650.

Jeff continues to be counted on for other things, as well. He has graciously donated items to past Federation auctions, runs a website that helps promote the hobby and it is my understanding that he may get involved with helping the Federation run the auction at the 2006 National Show in Reno. Interested in consigning? — let us know!

EBay

EBay — ahhh, EBay! For someone writing a column like this, EBay makes life so much easier! You just have to be diligent about book-marking the bottles and getting the prices noted before the item disappears. Hopefully I have spotted most of the significant bottles — if you noted something which I missed and you think it should appear in the column, please feel free to e-mail me.

EBay Ambers

It seems that very few of the amber Western flasks are offered on EBay. And the past several months have been typical. Offerings have included:

AAA OLD VALLEY A pretty yellow olive with a buffed base chip, \$1,200. [Figure 12a]

JF CUTTER, STAR / SHIELD Light golden amber, mint, \$2,000. [Figure 12b]

CP MOORMAN Light yellow amber, mint, \$710. [Figure 12b]

GOUDIE & McKELVEY PEPPERTREE SALOON, SAN PEDRO. Near mint half-pint shoofly, \$1,726. [Figure 13]

Vertical WORMSER BROS / SAN FRANCISCO, near mint, \$356.

EBay Clear Pumpkinseeds and Coffins

Every once in a while you catch a title on EBay that gets your heart to thumping. And, so it was when I saw a listing for “Manitou Colorado Pumpkinseed Flask”. Talk about an incredible and desirable Western pumpkinseed! Embossed E. P. CREIGHTON / ARCADE SALOON / MANITOU, the bottle would have blown through the roof and blown through my

checking account except ... the only thing blown was the whole shoulder of the flask. Ah, well — at least I have my pictures of the one from John Eatwell’s collection.

As an accompanying article by Bill Baab advises, John passed away in December. He had the pre-eminent collection of Colorado flasks and I had the great privilege of visiting with him and with his wife on two occasions while researching and photographing the Colorado flasks for my book on Western flasks. He was a tremendous asset to our hobby and I will certainly miss him! (As a possible point of interest to the reader, his family is selling close to 500 of the leftover copies of John’s book *Pike’s Peak Gold*. At \$20 per copy, they are a tremendous bargain and I will be happy to refer you to the family if you desire a copy.)

Also from Colorado (and finding its way into my Colorado flask collection!) was an extremely rare (only other example known is in the Eatwell collection) pint coffin flask from Cripple Creek embossed W AND W BAR / McBRAYER / CRIPPLE CREEK / COLO [Figure 14]. Perfectly mint, this bottle pitted me against a good buddy of mine from Oklahoma and....it now resides on my shelf at the hefty sum of \$1,685.

The state of Montana was represented by three shooflies [Figure 15] in the past few months. Held back by a bruise in the face, a pint basket-based shoofly embossed C E CROWLEY / WINE MERCHANT /



Figure 14: Pint W and W Bar, Cripple Creek, Colorado

18 SOUTH MAIN ST / BUTTE, MONT. realized only \$127.50, where a mint example more recently brought close to \$700. A half pint GWIN & JOHNSON / TURF EXCHANGE / 114 MAIN ST / ANACONDA, MONT., one of the more



Figure 15: Pint basket-based Crowley, Butte, Mont. shoofly; half-pint Gwin & Johnson, The Turf, Anaconda, Mont. shoofly; pint John Heller., Great Falls, Mont., shoofly.



Figure 16: (L) Weinburg, Tacoma, W.T.

Figure 17: (R) Half-pint Olympia flask. Wellington Saloon, Prescott, Arizona



Figure 18: Ranier Saloon, Toulumne, Calif. half-pint



Figure 19: Two eBay offerings of California pumpkinseed flasks: McDonough's, S.F. pint and The Sequoia, Mill Valley, Calif. pint.



Figure 20: Pint and half-pint Abadie, Eureka, Nev. pumpkinseed flasks

rare of the Anaconda flasks, hammered to \$1,276 and a very badly cracked pint THIS LIQUOR BOTTLED BY / JOHN HELLER / GREAT FALLS / MONTANA realized \$46.00. Ah, the advantages of one's bottles being mint!!!

Texas was represented in the clear flasks with a super clear fancy-based pint shoofly. Embossed DEL MONTE / KING & REILEY / 298 / MAIN STREET / DALLAS, TEXAS, a high bid of \$432 was realized. Watch my next flask column for more Texas flasks promised last time, but unable to be delivered due to space constraints this time!

From Washington State, a clear THE TACOMA / FRITZ REBOTSKI / HOQUIAM, WASH pint realized \$445 (see the Fall 2005 issue of Bottles and Extras for a photo) and a flask embossed A. WEINBERG / monogram / TACOMA, W.T. [Figure 16] with a significant bruise on the shoulder reached \$116.

Arizona flasks are tough, tough, tough!!! A half-pint Olympia-style Wellington Saloon [Figure 17] with completely missing top made it to \$160 and did not even meet the seller's reserve!

As one would usually expect, the California offerings were more plentiful. Among the noteworthy were:

A pint pumpkinseed RAINIER SALOON / BLUE GRASS / S. HOSSLI / TUOLUMNE, CAL. [Figure 18], which screamed to \$2,045. This is one that absolutely shocked all of us who seriously collect the Western pumpkinseeds, "Saloon" embossing notwithstanding. Even more interesting than the price realized was the effect it had on the market six months later when the same seller listed the half pint and made a comment about how well the pint had done. Since he had placed a reserve on the bottle, almost (key word!) everyone assumed that the reserve would be close to the price realized by the pint, so the only serious bidder ended up with it at the reserve — a very good buy of \$800! Congratulations, Steve!

DAN DONAHOE / MINT / SALOON / MARYSVILLE. A clean and near mint pint pumpkinseed realized a reasonable \$355 while a half pint with a crack in the lip made it to \$90.

McDONOUGH'S / 700 KEARNEY ST / S.F., CAL. [Figure 19]. With a nice amethyst tint and only a little stain, this pumpkinseed flask failed to capture the attention of the California collectors, closing at a price below reserve of \$122.50.

It was later purchased off EBay at \$300.

A nice little half-pint pumpkinseed from just north of the Bay, \$416 was paid for a J E BRADY / SEQUOIA / MILL VALLEY, CAL.

And, finally for this category, the great state of Nevada! A clean and mint half-pint pumpkinseed flask embossed FRANK ABADIE / WHOLESALE / LIQUORS / EUREKA, NEV. [Figure 20] was offered by a seller whose mother had dug the bottle back in the 1970s. Friends pitted against friends ... ahhh, the stress of an auction! Bob and Ralph ... this one ended up in Tennessee at \$1,625. I am happy to report that it joined a damaged pint recently dug by my friend Ivan Oakeson — darn — should have found the time to go digging with him while I was out in Salt Lake!

EBay Flats and Miscellaneous Style Flasks

This continues to be the one area of Western flask collecting where bargains can be found. But, as the following sales will illustrate, flasks which are rare and flasks from the non-Coastal states can command a premium. By state:

California – BONITA – BAR / BEN NEWMAN, / PROPR. / ARCADIA, CAL. One I had never previously seen, this pint screw cap dandy realized \$175 [Figure 22].

B O HART / FERNDAL, CAL (all in script) A scarce clear half-pint screw cap defender flask with staining garnered the starting bid of \$69.

WH TUTTLE / THE OWL / NEVADA CITY, CAL. This half-pint dandy is always a popular bottle and realized \$154.50.

C. TYNAN / JH CUTTER / WHISKEY / SALINAS, CAL. These are found in both the half and full pint sizes, with the pint being considerably more rare. The association with Cutter Whiskey makes them very popular. This half-pint clear dandy closed at \$179 in an August auction [Figure 23].

V E N D O N E BAR / embossed stags head / SAN BERNARDINO. An extremely rare and desirable screw cap dandy reflected



Figure 23: Tynan, Salinas, Calif.



Figure 24: (L) Vendome Bar, San Bernardino.

Figure 26: (R) Senate Saloon, Grand Junction, Colo.



Figure 28: Sunset Wine House, Everett, Wash.



Figure 29: Index, Wash. flask



Figure 30: (L) Doctor Bar, Raymond, Wash.

Figure 31: (R) Grant's House of Quality, Seattle, Wash.

in the price realized of \$257 **[Figure 24]**.

Others included a clear pint dandy from Darmody and Schaffer, Los Angeles (\$45), a clear pint dandy D.B. Jerrue from Los Angeles (no bid at the reserve of \$45), an amber pint dandy Jos Melczer from Los Angeles (\$25), a clear pint dandy Berges & Garrissere, Salinas (\$17) and an amber half-pint dandy EAGLE VINEYARD / WM GOLDMAN / PROP. / S.F. which realized \$28.

A really nice half-pint clear defender flask embossed GILT EDGE with a crown and with the original label for OLD GILT EDGE / O K / WHISKEY / WICHMAN, LUTGEN & CO went to a new home at a very reasonable \$66 **[Figure 25]**.

Colorado – Flat flasks from this state can get pricey! Three good ones — two quite rare, were offered:

THE BRANCH / SALOON / KOKOMO / COLO. Talk about a tough flask to find! Stained and poorly photographed this half-pint defender flask failed to meet the seller's minimum bid of \$1,125.

ST REGIS BAR / J E DULMAINE / GRAND JUNCTION, COLO. This half-pint dandy flask is unlisted in Glen Preble's book *Impressed In Time – Colorado Beverage Bottles, Jugs and Etc 1859-1915*. J. E. Dulmaine did have two different flasks embossed for the Windsor Bar, but this is the first I have seen for the St. Regis Bar. A bottle not even found in the Eatwell collection, it realized an appropriately strong price of \$800.

THE SENATE SALOON / GRAND JUNCTION / COLO. A half-pint defender flask that shows up occasionally, this example reached \$433 **[Figure 26]**.

Montana – AUGUST HELLER'S / FAMILY LIQUOR STORE / KALISPELL, MONT. This half pint rectangular flask was offered by David Bethman and realized \$52.

FULL MEASURE ONE PINT / WARRANTED DOUBLE STAMPED WHISKEY / BOUGHT DIRECT FROM DISTILLERY BY US / RYAN & LAUDER / GLOBE SALOON / 101 E. PARK - BUTTE, MONTANA. A 16-ounce capacity pharmacy-style flask, this received the opening bid of \$850. Perhaps a one-of-a kind **[Figure 27]**!

Oregon – Surprisingly few flat flasks were offered from Oregon. Two that I did note were:

GULLEY'S FAMILY LIQUOR STORE / 384 1ST STREET / PORTLAND, ORE. An amber rectangular banded quart, it realized the opening bid of \$40. Rare, but apparently

not highly sought.

THE MIDWAY / 244 1ST ST / PORTLAND, ORE. A clear half-pint dandy, this flask was a bargain at \$21.50.

Utah – JOHN LOLLINS / SALT LAKE CITY / UTAH was embossed on an offered clean clear half pint Olympia-style flask. It realized \$122.50. (see "New Finds" on page 6.).

Washington – Dave Bethman and Marc Lutsko's online auction site "thebottlevault" has been the source for a large quantity of good Washington flasks in the past few months. Several of the bottles noted below were offered on their site.

SUNSET WINE HOUSE / 1919 HEWITT ST. / EVERETT, WASH. A half pint clear Baltimore oval flask, it reached \$109 **[Figure 28]**.

F. H COLLINS / "BAR" in horseshoe / INDEX, WASH. This clear pint dandy flask from a small Washington town realized the starting bid of \$150. **[Figure 29]**.

BERGLEEN & LITTLE / DOCTOR BAR / RAYMOND, WASH. A half-pint Washington style flask, this closed at \$72 **[Figure 30]**.

Dolan's (in script) / HOTEL STEVENS BAR / 902 1ST AVE / SEATTLE. A clear pint dandy flask, it had a small check and realized only \$33.

GRANT'S / HOUSE OF QUALITY / 1412 THIRD AVE / SEATTLE. A very clean clear half pint ringed dandy, it was popular to the tune of \$82 **[Figure 31]**.

Levinson's (in script) / OUR NAME / OUR GUARANTEE / SEATTLE, WASH. This half-pint dandy realized \$36.

OUR HOUSE / WINE / & / LIQUOR CO / 151 / WASHINGTON ST / SEATTLE. A nice pint screw-cap dandy that closed at \$42 **[Figure 32]**.

THE ORIENT / P M LOW & CO / 323 FIRST AVE / SOUTH SEATTLE, WASH. was embossed on a half pint clear rectangular banded flask that realized \$78 **[Figure 33]**.

Territorial Bottles

While scrolling through the flask listings on EBay I came across an Oklahoma Territory flask that did not exactly get me excited until I realized that it was a quart and not the typical pint or half pint capacity flask. A strap-sided flask embossed LEIGHTON & CO / THE MONARCH BAR / EL RENO, O.T., I was thrilled to put it on the shelves with my half pint Monarch Bar **[Figure 37]** and my other territorial and Oklahoma flasks!



Figure 32: (L) Our House, Seattle, Wash.
Figure 33: (R) The Orient, South Seattle

Made available privately were four very nice Oklahoma flasks which came out of the Bill Slavik collection:

FRANK MENTEN / BROADWAY CAFÉ / 205 BDWAY / O.K. CITY half-pint strap. [Figure 34]

SHORE DISTILLING CO / ELK CITY / OKLA half-pint coffin. [Figure 35]

J. A. HANNING / ARCADE SALOON / SHAWNEEE, O.T. half-pint strap. [Figure 35]

McLEAN BROS / EL RENO, O.T. half-pint strap. [Figure 36]

I am including photographs of these, as well as the other Oklahoma territory flasks

I own to give an overview of what is available to collectors [Figures 34-36]. There are others... Johnnie Fletcher is currently working on a book which will feature the Oklahoma and Indian Territory bottles, glasses and stoneware. Please consider letting him know what you have to help make that project as complete as possible. You may reach him at Johnnie Fletcher, 1300 S. Bluehaven Dr., Mustang, OK 73064. Phone (405) 376-1045 or E-mail him at privyguys@aol.com.

Until next time.....



Figure 34: Territorial flasks from Oklahoma.



Figure 35: More Territorial flasks from Oklahoma.



Figure 36 (above) and 37 (R): Five more territorial flasks from Oklahoma Territory are illustrated.

