

Deland, Florida. - March 14-15, 2003

from Bill Marks, M-T Bottle Collectors Assoc., Inc. and Mike Elling, Sharon, Tennessee

The 33rd DeLand M-T Bottle Collectors Annual Antique Bottle, Insulator and Collectibles Show and Sale was held at the Volusia County fairgrounds on March 14 & 15, 2003. The March lion wind was calm, the birds chirped, the weather cooperated and under the duress of the upcoming war and all time high gas prices, we had a most welcome surprise in the form of another successful show, with 88 sales tables, 5 exhibit tables and an estimated attendance of 250 people taking advantage of the free admission and free parking.

The successful annual show and sale preparations began months before its March 14-15 days of the show. Chairwoman Maureen Pallasch started with the printing of flyers, mailing dealer contracts, numerous telephone contacts and meetings with city and county officials.

Members met early on Friday March 14, to distribute show signs at points around the city while others started the set up of 88 sales tables, chairs and 5 exhibit tables in preparation for the dealers to set up their wares at 1 P.M..

The club offered free bottle appraisals at the show. Free handouts on bottle identification and club information were quickly taken by the attending public. The net result was the addition of two new families of bottle collectors uniting with our club.

As usual, there were dealers from around the East, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, New York, Texas, California and Nova Scotia, Canada. The building was filled with many bottles, insulators and varied collectibles. The dealers were given a computerized pin type plastic encased nametag showing their name, town and state with attached Silver ribbon for easy identification.

Friday afternoon the dealers were busy visiting old friends and making new ones as they bought, sold and traded. There were tales of bottle digs and finds as they unloaded and set up their sales tables.

Friday evening club members served the dealers and spouses a complimentary dinner with a choice of pulled bar-b-que pork or chicken on a bun, delicious baked beans, potato salad, ice tea, coffee and

lemonade. The dessert was cake-a-plenty baked by the club's ladies.

There were five excellent exhibition displays for the enjoyment and education by all who attended the show:

Exhibit 1: Avon, Whiskey and Artifact Display: Lester & Frances Stoll of Pierson, Florida.[Fig. 1]



Fig. 1

Exhibit 2: Volusia County Auto Tags Display: Oscar Brock of Lake Helen, Florida displayed a nearly complete array of Florida Automobile license plates from 1915 to 1975.[Fig. 2]

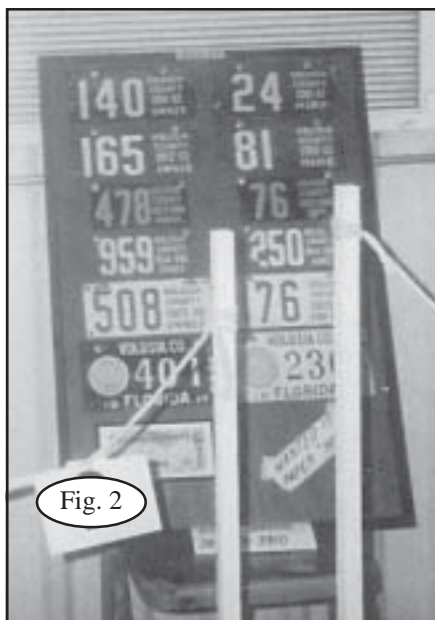


Fig. 2

Exhibit 3: Coca Cola, Soda Display: James Hurley of New Smyrna Beach, Florida provided his Coca-Cola Family Packaging for Convenience Carrier display, from 1940 to 1976. [Fig. 3]

Exhibit 4: Chero Cola Soda Display: Mike Elling of Sharon, Tennessee was awarded the M-T Bottle Club's Highest Quality Plaque for his display of Florida Chero-Cola Bottles, 1912 to 1947. [Fig. 4]

Exhibit 5: Fruit Jar Display: Mike and Betty Jordan of Ocala, Florida were awarded the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Ribbon for the most Educational Display of Ball Fruit Jars from 1909 to 1962. [Fig. 5]

Judges chose the display awards on the basis of educational importance and it was the Jordan's Ball Fruit Jars that took the trophy. The exhibit features a strong selection of transitional jars when the Ball Company moved from their original Buffalo, New York location to their Muncie, Indiana location prior to World War 1. The runner up was a

new display of Chero-Cola soda bottles issued by Florida bottlers from the years 1912 to 1947. Mike Elling [Fig. 6], of Sharon, Tennessee, brought the display down as the guest of club member Pascal Pancratz of Altamonte Springs. The bottlers included were: Bradentown (sic), Chipley, Jacksonville, Jasper, Lakeland, Live Oak, Mariana, Newberry, Ocala, Orlando, Palatka, Panama City, Pensacola, Sanford, Tallahassee, and Tampa. Known bottlers absent from Elling's display are Defuniak Springs, Malone, Miami, Perry, and St. Petersburg.

Chris Wiede of Jacksonville, FL [Fig. 6], was one of the notable painted label soda bottle collectors present. He found a scarce Dietetic Squeeze in yellow/red 10 oz clear glass. This early cyclamate bottle is mould dated by Glenshaw Glass as 1963, and is from Adams, Mass. He also found a scarce 7 oz Jockey Club in red/white label, clear glass from the Hammonton, New Jersey bottler. The label features a proud jockey atop horse and is mould dated by Owens-Illinois at 1953. Chris went on to say that he saw a very early prewar Salutaris Scotch Nip in just 4 oz green glass. It has embossed lettering at the base and a white label name at the middle and was dated 1940!

Several early Coca-Cola bottles were offered and prices for very early amber glass examples were tagged at just \$50.00! The dealer that had these explained that the demand for early cokes seems dormant for now.



Fig. 3

James Hurley and son, with their special display of Coca-Cola family convenience packages.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Mike Jordan displays top Ball jars during the Deland Bottle Show, March 15th, 2003.

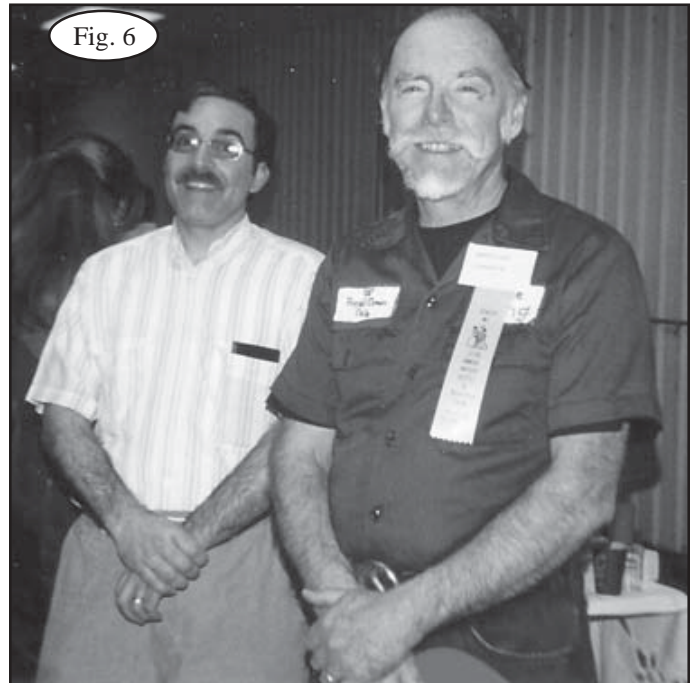


Fig. 6

Mike Elling and Chris Wiede (L), soda collectors re-united after ten years. Chris sees most Eastern shows, while Mike sees most mid-South shows.

Two soda reference books were available at the show. There was Georgia Crown Top Soda Bottles by Carl Barnett and Ken Nease. [Fig. 7] The book is spiral bound paperback with a stunning 260 pages of over 1400 bottles pictured from various Georgia bottlers. These include 263 different Coca-Cola straight sided (pre-1915) bottles and an unprecedented 236 different Chero-Cola bottles. This is the first such reference to ever compile a listing of these bottlers. In addition, some 15 other Georgia brands are included. This is a must have reference of the most prolific soda bottler state in history! This work is privately published and is \$43.90 postpaid in the US from: Georgia Soda Book, 1211 St. Andrews Dr., Douglas, GA 31533.

The second book offered at the show is Embossed Soda Bottles of Florida, by David A. Collins who was present at the show gathering information for a second revision of his book which is a work in progress. Currently, his first edition is available in paperback, 16 pages, for \$8.00 plus postage from David Collins, P.O. Box 250, Hawthorne, FL 32640. It is a listing by bottler/brand name; bottle style; color; height; and rarity. David requests that collectors of Florida Soda check in with him to aid in expanding this much needed reference work.

Florida collectors seem to have much interest in commemorative Coca-Cola bottles of all series as several tables included many selections. The bargain of the day was a half-table full of quart and half-quart milk bottles tagged at \$2.50 each.

[Fig. 8] Maureen Pallasch, Show Chair, catches her breath during Deland Florida bottle show.

[Fig. 9] Commemorative Soda Specialist Pascal Pancratz and daughter Stephanie offered a table full of special issues for sale.

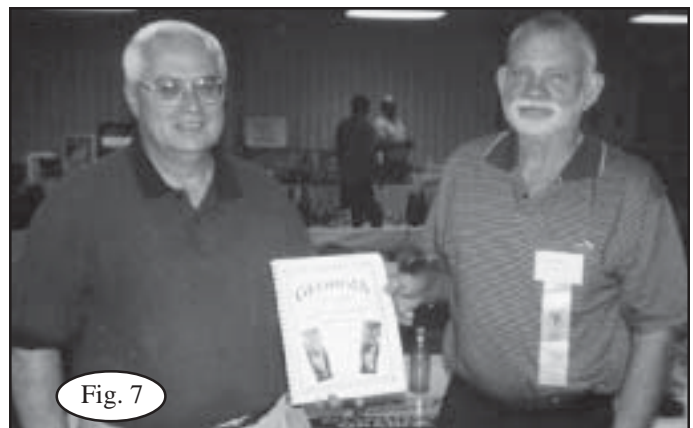


Fig. 7

New authors, Carl Barnett (L) and Ken Nease display published "work in progress" books on all Georgia embossed soda bottles.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9