

RECENT FINDS

I thought I would share with your readers a recent rare open pontiled medicine I recently dug in St. Louis, Mo. It is EASTMAN'S - ELIXIR - OF HEALTH, The bottle was dug from a privy in St. Louis, Mo. Oval-shaped with six large vertically recessed panels, it is extremely crude with a deep open pontiled bottom. Dates to the 1840s, from Zanesville, Ohio 1840 - 1847. Until now, there has never been a picture of one.

From Tom Feltman

In late 2006, I came across an interesting piece that to date, I have found out very little information about. It is an ashtray that was designed for the pipe smoker made of heavy metal, kidney-shaped with a rectangle block at one end for tapping one's pipe on. Opposite of the block is a raised picture of a gentleman smoking a long pipe that extends from his lips across the ashtray. At the top of the ashtray along the edge are the words: "LONDON WINE & SPIRIT CO. DISTILLERS OF LONDON CLUB GIN'S NEW YORK AND LONDON." In the middle of the ashtray, it has the words: "OLD TOM PLYMOUTH SLOE -- DRY -- HOLLAND." Below those words are: "PACIFIC COAST AGENTS SAN FRANCISCO, CAL." The underneath has the words: "MFG BY F.H. LOVELL & Co. NEW YORK."



It is in excellent condition with some wear from use. I am almost positive that it dates around 1885 to the early 1900s. I have not found any information although I did take it to the National Bottle Show last August and asked several folks about it. They had not seen a piece like this, but all offered to buy it.

I really want to find out more about it first.

The history behind it has my attention. I know that it was found in an old hardware store that has been closed for years in Sebastopol, Calif. The exact date, I am not sure of, but it closed in the late 1950s. Everything that was in the store when it closed is still there and looked after by family, of which I am a friend. How this ashtray got into this hardware store in this town, I have no idea.

I am hoping some information about this piece would come my way by sharing this with the FOHBC club members. It looks great sitting next to my Henry Campe fifth and shot glass. Anyone that has information that they would like to share can write to me. Anything will be greatly appreciated.

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