

Recent Finds

Warren Borton reports that he dug a previously unknown Montana pumpkinseed flask this Fall. Embossed: **GEO. C. FITSCHEN & BRO / MAIN STREET / BUTTE CITY / MONT.** it represents only the second example of a true pumpkinseed flask with double rolled top known from the state of Montana (the other is from the Placer Hotel in Helena, an enterprise which also presented us with a ground screw-top pumpkinseed)

Alas, it was broken, as is the only known example of a shoofly flask from this proprietor.

Marc Lutsko provides the following information about George C Fitschen flasks:

The only known example of the shoofly flask is a pint and it was dug in the old Butte dump in the



1960's. George and August Fitschen are first listed in Butte in the 1889 directory with a saloon at 25 South Main Street. In 1891 they are listed as G. C. Fitschen & Bro at 17 South Main Street, a listing which is maintained through 1902. In the 1905 directory, the enterprise is known as Fitschen Bros Commercial Company and in 1906 the company name changes to Gus Fitschen & Company, maintaining the 17 South Main Street address.

The most likely time period for these two flasks would then be from 1891-1902. The time period might be shortened, somewhat, with the knowledge of when Butte City became simply Butte.

Readers?



Warren also dug this plate and Hire's Root Beer Mug from an early privy hole in northern Wyoming. The Hire's mug is Mettlach, from Germany, and he also believes the plate is as well.



Dug in the Spring of 2002 by J. Cress was a previously unknown western pumpkinseed flask embossed: **ED EDWARDS / MINT SALOON / 605 COMMERCIAL ST, S.F.** The fascinating aspect of this find was not so much the fact that no prior examples had



been unearthed-- rather it was that it was dug in a privy in Alton, Illinois!

The first listing for the Mint Saloon that I find in the San Francisco directories is 1876. At that time it was under the proprietorship of James Noel and George W. Vincent. The initial indication of Edward Edwards in the San Francisco liquor trade is the year 1877, when he is listed as a bartender for Brander & Company at 225 Clay Street. This firm was comprised of the estate of John S. Brander and George Hager. Hager apparently maintained the Clay Street saloon to some degree through at least 1879-80 following acquisition of the Mint Saloon in 1878. Edward Edwards is listed as a bartender for George Hager into 1886, purchasing the Mint Saloon sometime in that year. The final listing for him is in the 1896 San Francisco directory. The Mint Saloon is not listed beyond 1896, either.

The **BARTLETT & OSTREICHER / GEM SALOON / ELKO NEV.** was also dug by him this summer.

