

Recent Finds

Around the same time as one would expect the usual April Fools joke, I was contacted by a digger friend about a new find from the mining town of Jerome, Arizona. The E-mail received that day asked if I had ever seen a Jerome pharmacy bottle with a mortar and pestle on it? Within two weeks I not only had my first glimpse of the bottle but also had acquired an example for my collection. You see Digger Dave from Missouri had recently taken a trip with his son through Northern Arizona and had dug two examples of this bottle in the town of Flagstaff. Some negotiating later and one of those bottles had landed on my pharmacy shelf. And all I can say is “wow”!

Bottles from Jerome are highly prized by collectors due to the town’s mining history and its claim as being a ghost town. Actually the town’s population has been growing through recent years due to its influx of tourist shops and artisans, but anyone who has visited this gem would remember how the entire town seems to cling to the edge of the mountain waiting to tumble into the Verde Valley below. To many, only Tombstone holds a greater place of distinction as a reminder of Arizona’s western past.

Prior to this find, only one other bottle from Jerome’s early days had been found. Embossed “LYNN BOYD/REGIST. DRUGGIST/JEROME, ARIZ.,” it is one of the rarest and possibly the most sought after non-territorial marked pharmacy bottle from Arizona. The new bottle’s embossing “BOYD/DRUG CO/(mortar & pestle in wreath)/JEROME/ARIZ.” is enhanced with the picture and its horizontal stature. This great find is only the second newly documented pharmacy bottle from Arizona since the publication of *A Collector’s Guide to Arizona Bottles & Stoneware* in 1999 and would certainly have made it into the Top Ten for Arizona pharmacy bottles.

Boyd’s Drug Store began operation in 1899 under the ownership of Lynn E. Boyd. It was one of two pharmacies, along with the Red Cross Drug Store, in Jerome at this time and in 1903, Lynn had added P.S. Boyd as a partner. It is most likely that the new bottle was used at this time. In 1909, the two Boyd’s sold their store to E.C. Mitchell who changed the store’s name to the Mitchell Drug Company. Two years later the Jerome Drug Company began operation and Mitchell closed his store. Some 60+ years later the first LYNN BOYD bottle was unearthed on the present site of the Phoenix Civic Center, and now another 30 year later we see the second bottle from the Boyd’s store.

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