

RECENT FINDS

One never knows what will come walking through the door at a bottle show. At the October 22-23 show held in Canyonville, Oregon, a gentleman responding to the local advertisements for free appraisals brought in a 9" aqua rectangular cure embossed JOHN W. COPE'S / MT. SHASTA KIDNEY / AND LIVER CURE. Only the third known example of this bottle, it was near mint and a vast improvement over the prior known examples, both of which are damaged.



It went home with a very happy Western medicine collector!

In *Antique Western Bitters Bottles* by Jeff Wichmann, there is a nice photograph of an advertisement for "Mt. Shasta" Kidney and Liver Cure and Cope's Tonic Bitters. This advertisement indicates that the John W. Cope Company was located in Stockton, California. The sign features black laborers designated "Cope's Agents Gathering Herbs on Mt. Shasta". The bitters advertised is a square fifth with indented panels and is embossed THE JOHN W. COPE CO. / STOCKTON, CAL. /// BEST IN THE WORLD ///.



Also coming out of Southern Oregon (but not purchased at the Canyonville Show) was a previously unknown half pint pumpkinseed flask embossed THOS. J. WALSH & CO. / WINES / & / LIQUORS / 733 MARKET ST. / S.F. Thanks go out to John Shuler for the lead regarding this bottle and to the fortunate digger who made it available.

Thomas J. Walsh can be traced to San Francisco at least as early 1879-80, when he was employed as a mail clerk at the *Morning Call*. He was employed in this capacity until 1883, when he is listed as a bookkeeper for John Hanly, a dealer in dry goods. In 1886 he is found in business with George E. Peake as co-owner of the California Soap Company and in 1887 he is part of the firm Putzman and Walsh, dealing in California wines and brandies. Their wine and liquor business was variably listed as either the NE or SE corner of Pine and Montgomery Streets.

Walsh stayed in business with Frederick H. Putzman, Jr., through 1890. In 1891, Walsh established the firm of Thos. J. Walsh & Co and opened a business in wines and liquors at 341 Pine Street. He remained at this address through 1895, adding a location at 16 Post Street in 1895.

In 1896, Thomas J. Walsh & Company established the business at 733 Market Street, for which this flask is embossed. A second establishment, located at 630 Mission Street, lasted only the one year. Variably listed as 733 or 763 Market Street, the Market Street facility must have been destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, as Walsh is there in the 1905 directory, but is at a new locale in 1907.

In 1907, Walsh is partnered with J. G. Leibert at 15 Powell Street, and they remain together through 1908. The 1909 directory lists a residence only, following which we find Walsh in the liquor business at 346 Pine Street from 1910 through Prohibition.

