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Bottle Collector

Vol. 2 No. 4
July-Aug. 1975

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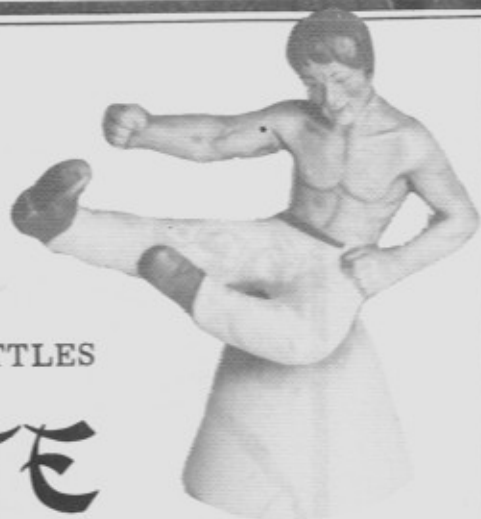
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ASK FOR SID

The Miniature Bottle Collector

JULY-AUG. 1975

VOL. 2 NO. 4

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NEXT TIME

For our next issue there are many "ifs", but you can count on seeing a preview of some new Collectors Art dogs and birds, Cinzano's from all over the world, and "gag" (or funny) bottles.

OUR COVER

For these summer months, our cover shows a formidable trio from Hawaii. These are the Okolehao bottles from Hawaiian Distillers. Read more about them on pp. 6-7.

Editor: David M. Spaid Art: Mary L. Spaid

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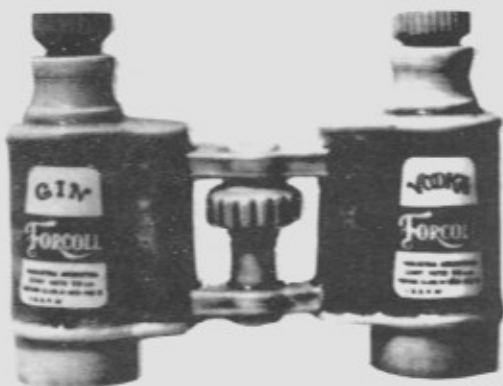
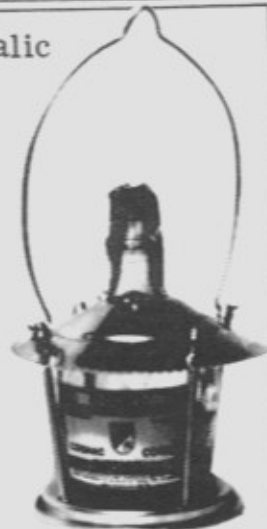
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LET'S TALK

Welcome to summer. I don't know how it is where you are, but right now here in the Los Angeles area the temperature has begun to climb and things are warming up nicely even though actual summer isn't even here yet. There's a lot to chew over in our "rap session" this time, so let's get started and forget the weather.

First off (once again), is the mail problem. Some people were kind enough to drop us a line concerning when they received the magazine and we'd really expected to hear from more of you. Oh well, no matter what evidence you have to present to the post office, it probably won't do any good. I'm getting more and more pessimistic about the postal service (as they like to be called) every time I see them ask for another (and yet larger) rate increase or I get a letter saying that an issue not only was late but didn't even make it. About the only thing to do is mail first class so for those of you who are interested, when we make our next renewal flyer, we're going to include a check space for 1st class. We realize that to some of you it doesn't really matter, but there are others who are sitting around gnawing their nails each time any information on new minis is released. So, persevere!

Our next item of business concerns the bottles on the cover. These three bottles (along with the glass bottle shown on this page) are the 1975 offerings from Hawaiian Distillers and all either presently contain Okolehao or will be bottled later this year. The King Kamehameha and Hula Girl (which comes in two versions--green skirt with yellow bra, yellow skirt with no bra) have been for sale in Honolulu since sometime in April. The bust of King Kamehameha will be sold starting in September if present plans are followed. The price is right, considerably under ten dollars each and these are very nicely done Japanese bottles with a bisque finish. Oh yes, if Okolehao throws you, that's the 80 proof Hawaiian whiskey. And, lest we forget, the glass bottle is a Tiki God almost exactly the same as the plastic bottle issued some time back but now off the market.

We'd like to give you a little extra information about the Beneagles bottles pictured elsewhere in this issue. Just a few days after we went to press on the May-June issue, one of our Canadian subscribers, Mr. Lew Kamann, sent me information about this chess set and about two days after that I received one of the bottles, the Black Queen - Mary, Queen of Scots, as a

gift from Mr. Frank Harrison of the Foss Company (who issue the Ski Country bottles). Frank had been over to Scotland on business and brought a couple of the bottles back. So between two most kind collectors, we were in possession of not only the information about the two sets of bottles but also a bottle itself.

The ten bottles in the series went on sale on Marcy 17th in Scotland and should shortly be available here in the States along with the earlier Beneagles Haggis and Golf Ball bottles which were never generally available. They are being imported by the Jon-Sol Company of Milwaukee which also brings us those cute Wisconsin Wildlife bottles. They should be for sale in Wisconsin, Nevada, New Mexico, and probably several other states. Be on the look out!!

Now we come to the area which really interests and enthuses me most. This is information about two new clubs which serve members in several different states. After a little info last time, I got the following letters from Dick Liddle and Pete Pregler. The first letter is from Dick: "The first thing I want to do is thank you for mentioning our club in the magazine. Now for some information. As you have already noted, we have a name now, the Great Lakes Mini Club. We started in September with seven people and our membership has gone up at every meeting so far and we hope it continues. At first we were meeting once a month, now it is every other month. We meet at a different house each time so we can get to see and enjoy other collections.

In our club we have collectors with collections as small as 160 bottles and we have Mr. Pat McMullen who has a collection of 20,000. In between we have a very impressive collection of about 6,000 belonging to Mr. and Mrs. David Hood. What I think is a unique thing about our club is that we are going to try to keep it informal.

"My idea for starting this club was to get people together for the fun of it and to make more bottles available to the collectors and so far this is working. We have no officers in this club but I must admit that my wife Lisa does most of the work. Right now we are charging a \$1.00 fee to cover postage for a small newsletter that is put out after each meeting. At our next meeting, I hope to start a bottle raffle to pay for more bottles to raffle.

"If there are any dealers that would like to donate a bottle for our cause please send it to

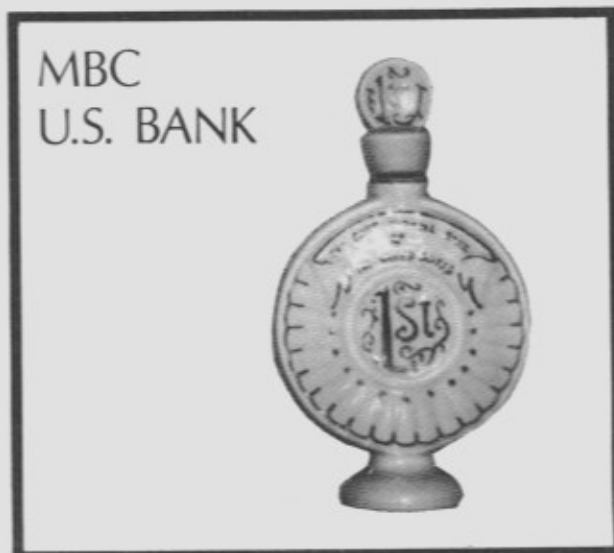
me as it will be greatly appreciated by all. I have had some out of state people write and ask about joining and they can join for the same price of \$1.00 so that they will get our newsletter and a list of our members who can be contacted for selling and trading of bottles.

"We also hope to have membership cards printed up soon because several very fine dealers have offered to give various discounts to our members. Anyone interested in joining the club can contact me, Dick Liddle, at 1553 Richmond Street, Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146."

Sounds to me like things are really moving along back there in Michigan, so let's move on East and slightly South to Philadelphia. Once again the fates were conspiring against us for the information from Pete Pregler came just as the May-June issue was being mailed. The club in Pennsylvania is called the Del-Val Miniature Bottle Club. I may be way off but it seems that I remember an area in Pa. called the Delaware Valley, so... Anyway, I'm certain someone will write and let us know.

On May 18, the Del-Val Club sponsored another mini bottle collector's Fair and Show. Letters were sent to interested collectors and dealers in several states. Hope we can report on this get together in the next issue. The Del-Val Club's mailing address is 8811 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136. The Club officers are: President, Herman B. Hoffman; Vice-President, William Johnston; Treasurer, Peter Pregler; and, Secretary, Anna Macomber. I'm certain we'll be hearing more about this active, growing club.

It's become sort of a laughing matter around here when we start to put each issue together



because for many times now we've promised an article on the Famous Firsts bottles. Each time something has come up to stall our printing the article. For example, it would have been in this issue except for the fact other, even earlier, commitments had been made. But... come next time you'll read about the bottles issued by Famous Firsts... that's a promise.

I guess there wasn't much new to tell you about the MBC bottles this time because all we were sent was a letter with a tiny bit of information. According to Mary Aiken (who promises more next time), the M-G-M Casino bottle for Las Vegas still has not been made and she really doesn't know if the powers-that-be there have even approved it. She also mentioned that the First National Bank bottle would be released shortly and that it would be a very short issue. Maybe next time she'll know how short an issue it is and hopefully more about the M-G-M and other Las Vegas Casino bottles.

For the past two issues, we've run comments in the M.B.C. Forum column but this time you'll notice that column is conspicuous by its absence. We know lots of you have things you'd like to say about the hobby, particular bottles, and/or collecting in general. So oil up the old typewriter and drop us a line. Remember, if you're interested in something, so are others. Let's hear from you.

That's about it for this time. No more news to report on the Beam minis shown here the last time. Hopefully in the Sept.-Oct. issue we'll have the latest news on the new McCormick and Hoffman minis. Until then, keep thinking small!

--DMS--





by bill odell

To introduce this month's article, I want to show you some new miniature beer items (Picture #1). These three miniature mugs are just 3" tall and have been designed and produced by Dick Ellis. The story on Dick appeared in last month's issue on page 5. Dick has designed the mini bottles that Beam is supposed to produce.

The three mugs are cast of stoneware, hand painted, and fired. The Rainier is in red with the trim in gold. The Hamm's bear is black and the word Hamm's (Picture #2) on the other side is red. The Olympia design is in blue, green, and gold. They are sold only in a set of three and go for \$13.50 per set plus \$1.50 for packing and postage. They are available from Dick Ellis, 23404 74th Avenue W., Edmonds, Washington 98020. These are limited to 200 sets and this set is the first of a projected series.



For our mini bottles this month, let's take a look at part of the "Old Northwest": Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many great breweries have operated in this area including Hamm's in St. Paul, Minnesota. In Vol. 2, #2, Jean Fugina showed a number of Hamm's items. We will start with an item I am sure that few have seen (Picture #3). The two small bears are the salt and peppers Jean showed. They were issued by the Hamm's Company in 1958 in very limited quantities. The big Papa bear is a bank as he has a slot in the top of the case that he is holding. There is no opening to get the money out so I suppose you are supposed to break the bear to get the money out. Forget that! The large bear is the only one I know of. The person whom I got it from said there had been a very limited number made. Admittedly he is not a miniature as he is about a foot tall.



From the sister city of Minneapolis came two sets of bottles. The first is from Grain Belt Breweries which still is in production. This brewery started in 1890 as the Minneapolis Brewing Company and changed its name to Grain Belt Breweries in 1967 (Picture #4). The bottle on the left is a tall (4 1/4") foil labeled bottle. This is reasonably common and would be fair at around \$6.00. The bottle on the right is a decal labeled medium (4") and is the less common one at \$7-8. There is a matching stein for the foil labeled bottle.



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Also from Minneapolis was the Gluek Brewing Company. This brewery was founded in 1857 and only went out of business fairly recently. In picture #5 we have three of the Gluek (pronounced "Glick") minis. All three are decal labeled and are in the fairly scarce category. They are all in the \$7-8 range. There is also a 3 1/4" tall stubby which is quite hard to find and would have to be in the \$10+ range.

From Fairbault, Minnesota, we have the products of the Ernst Fleckenstein Brewing Company. This now defunct brewery started in Minneapolis in 1855 and moved to Fairbault in 1857 (Picture #6).

From left to right we have a 4 1/4" tall decal label "CAVE AGED", a 4" medium decal label "AGE PURITY", a 4" medium decal label "CAVE AGED", a 4" medium paper label "CAVE AGED" with "100 Years" neck label (1957) and a 3" stubby decal label "CAVE AGED". The paper label is the most common and would be in the \$4-5 range. The three decal "Cave Aged" are next in the \$6-7 range and the "Age Purity" is rather uncommon and should be listed at \$8-10.

Moving to the neighboring state of Wisconsin, we have minis from four defunct breweries.

First in picture #7 we have a Fox Head 400 4 1/4" tall foil label. This \$6-7 bottle does have a matching stein.

It was brewed by the Fox Head Brewing Co. of Waukesha, Wisconsin. This brewery was founded in 1893 and was bought up by Heilman in 1962.

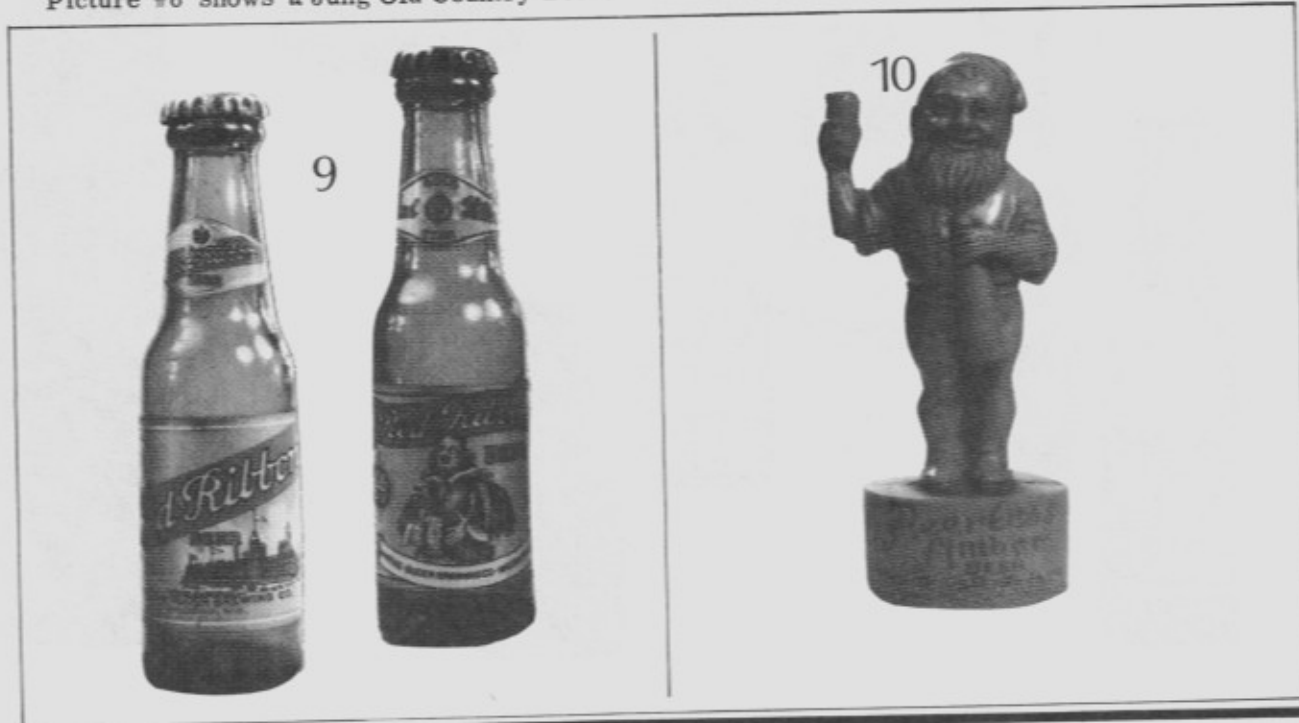
Picture #8 shows a Jung Old Country Beer.

This was brewed by the William G. Jung Company of Random Lakes, Wisconsin. This brewery which was in Milwaukee before prohibition reopened in Random Lakes, Wisconsin, in 1933. It ceased operations sometime before 1960. This is a 4 1/4" tall decal labeled bottle. There are at least eight colors in this label and I consider it the best looking mini I own. It is very scarce and should be in the \$10+ class.

The next two bottles are Red Ribbons from the Mathie Ruder Brewing Company, Wausau, Wisconsin, Mathie-Ruder, which also closed in 1955, started as the Frank Mathie Brewing Company in 1869. These two 4 1/4" tall decal labeled bottles are red, white, and blue, and are scarce and should be in the \$10+ class.

The last item this month (Picture #10) is an old plastic (?) miniature of the symbol of the Peerless Amber Brewery of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. This brewery also closed its doors during the 1950's. These small 4 to 4 1/2" figures are fairly scarce and usually bring \$10+ easily.

In closing this my second article, I would like to invite comments, questions, and what have you. What do you "out there" want to read about? What information would you like? More on bottles, cans, go-alongs, tip trays, reference material, or what? Please send any questions or comments to either Dave at the magazine or to me, Bill Odell, 20422 79th Avenue W., Edmonds, WA 98020. Should we try to print a list of some of the more difficult bottles? What do you think?



A VISIT TO

BOOZEVILLE U.S.A.

by LLOYD MCLEOD



Naughty, naughty, naughty!! No, not really. Please meet one of Boozeville's many parlor girls, "Bottoms Up." She works and lives upstairs in the hotel above the saloon. On the front stairway leading up to the rooms the fifth step is fixed in such a way (with wires and dry cell battery) that it activates a buzzer in the madam's room when someone steps on it. In this way she is alerted and can try to determine if the person is a customer, a policeman, a drunk, or a thief. Thus being able to prepare for almost any eventuality.

This pose does not embarrass "Bottoms Up" one bit because the nearest toilets are down the back stairs. Who wants to go all the way down there especially at night in cold weather. The container she is sitting on was commonly referred to in those days as a chamber pot. The taller ones with a bail were called the white owl. Anyway, she is one of the very rare German Giveaways that were popular a round the turn of the century.

The Germans made a number of styles of bottles that are considered naughties. From the picture of the bottom of the bottle you can see where it gets its name. When the bottle is tipped up to drain the last drop of liquor, both bottoms are truly up. This was the type of bottle that when given out to a customer at a busy

bar would bring a round of laughter and plenty of added jokes. All this, of course, was good for business. Thus the Giveaway did pay its own way.

Bottoms Up is 4 1/2 inches tall without the cork and made of porcelain. She is wearing black stockings, white nightgown trimmed with yellow, while her cape is light green and her hair medium brown. Flesh tones naturally are the "colors" of her hands and face.

This bottle was purchased from a dealer and I wasn't able to get any history on it. This is the only one of its kind that I know of. When a bottle like this can be purchased from its original owner, it is always more interesting. Sometimes extra information that adds greatly to the story can be gathered, such as when, where, and what occasion did the person receive it. If this type of information is gathered from an authentic source it should be written down along with the date gathered. Also, the person talked to. Then roll it up and put it down inside the bottle. Some old Giveaway bottles were purchased from the original owner here in The Dalles, Oregon. I will try to get that information and include it in a future article.

--L.M.--

Juniper to Jenever

This month I will show you some of the various gins out of the 150+ of such gins that were part of a collection that came from Europe in the 1950's. Most of these gins were never imported and my translations of some labels are only as good as my use of a Dutch dictionary.

The first bottle is from the A. Daalmeyer Company of Schiedam, Holland. This company was established in 1857 and shows a picture of its distillery on the label. They call their gin "aged glory."

The next item is by the E. Kiderlen Company of Schiedam. Most of these gins are corked bottles with a colored foil type cover on top. This label shows a picture of a sailor drinking his gin on the dock. The sailors of Holland are probably the ones who helped most spread the popularity of the juniper berry liquor around the world.

The next bottle is by P. Van Gents which was established in 1855. It also shows a sailor who has made it out to sea with his finest Holland "Geneva" (gin).

Moving on, we come to the "Citroen Jenever" which is a lemon gin from the De Vink Company. Although the gins first started out as straights, many different flavors evolved; however, very few of these were ever imported into the U.S.A.

The next bottle is what is known as a crock bottle. This one happens to be etched "J. H.



by HARRY FORD



Henkes, Delft Stoven" which is the company and location of where this gin was made. (An interesting note here is that the Henkes Company has now acquired the Rynbende Co. and still issues excellent glass bottles under its own label.) The label here depicts several men who are sitting around their favorite table toasting with their favorite gin.

It seems as though the Ulaardingen Company of Holland has a real winning gin as the baboon on the front label is drinking the "baboon brand" gin and tipping his hat. This is probably the most delightful label I've yet encountered.

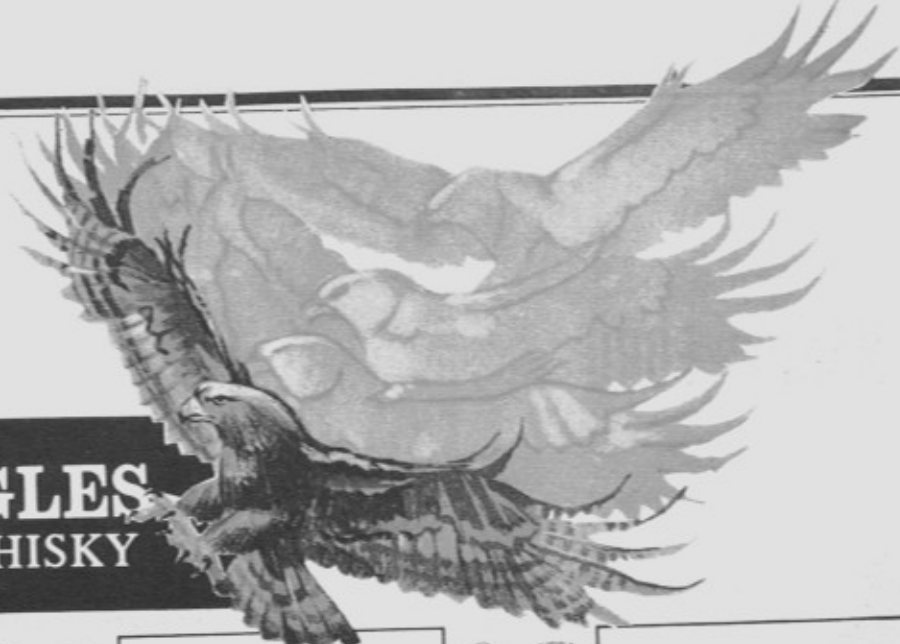
Many of you may recognize the WWII vintage jeep which surely must be a new advertising gimmick for the Venneker Company which was established in 1693.

The next bottle was made by a relatively new company, Mispelblom...established in 1770. Its "old farm brand" depicts a typical Dutch farm house.

The last bottle was made by the Vlek Company but was given out as a "faithful custom" by a print shop in Holland to celebrate New Year's of 1956. The attached tag is like a personalized card. It would be interesting if companies in the U.S. followed this policy.

Well, I hope you have enjoyed a look at a few of these nice labels and bottles of gin from Holland. More later! --H.F.--

BENEAGLES SCOTCH WHISKY



Robert the Bruce (1274-1329)



The Thistle and the Rose



Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-87)

This series of historical chess pieces was specially commissioned by Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd., the proprietors of Beneagles Scotch Whisky.

Designed by Perth artist Ann Whittet and modelled by Frederick Mellor of George Wade & Sons Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, the pieces are reproduced in fine Wade porcelain at Portadown in Northern Ireland.

Each principal piece contains Beneagles Scotch Whisky — the exclusive blend from Perth. The attractive gift carton also contains a matching Pawn which, too small to contain whisky, is presented unfilled.



*the thistle
and
the rose*
HISTORICAL CHESS



John Knox (1505-72)



Scottish Tower-House (15th Century)



William Wallace (1274-1305)

KOBY'S KOLLECTABLE KOLUMN

Each time I take a roll of film for future articles, it seems that the wrong pictures always come out almost the best for publication. My intentions were to show some of the flat bottles from our collection but again my photographic capabilities have limited me to some follow up on more rye material.

But before we get to those, you know every time I receive a publication either from MBC or MBM, it appears that the trend is shifting to a greater interest in imported merchandise. Have the mini collectors abandoned the good old American straights? What has happened to Zwack, Manhattan, Mohawk, Meier's, etc. collectors? Are we starting to compete with Ezra Brooks, Lionstone, and others? Now this is not another editorial, just a small reminder.

The first rye is Original Elk Dale. I wonder why that name was given that bottle? The original collector had sealed the top with egg preserver or water glass. The bottle is almost half evaporated. Gold paper label with red/black letters. It's 3 years old and distilled in Maryland at 90 proof.

The Seagram's is a real old one. The tax stamp is 1924. It has a cork stopper and is only slightly evaporated.

As you note just above the label, the Records & Goldsborough is embossed. Below and to the left of Melrose, you spot a picture of a rose. This is also a corker but with a plastic cap. This bottle is a blended straight rye whiskey. Original seal, but starting to evaporate and no proof is listed.



Most of you who have a large amount of old straights will have a small representation of the stubby Heublein's. I thought I would show the rye just in case some of you have not seen one. Again this bottle is from an old collection because it was dipped in water glass. I might add there is no evaporation at all. It's 90 proof and three years old.

The Carroll Club is almost half evaporated. It's 90 proof and two years old. Because of the three leaf clover, I would imagine it was named after some sort of Irish Club, or perhaps a court in Ireland. This bottle was also sealed with water glass, but not as well as some of the others in our collection.

more rye whiskies...



7

20, '38 and .01 1/2¢ tax paid on bottle.

The next bottle is self-explanatory. As with most of the above mentioned bottles, it also comes from Maryland. Only this time the state is inviting us all to drink some of their famous rye. The color is amber, 90 proof and 3 years old. Of course, it's empty.

On my last picture is where I must admit I really blundered. I took the picture of the wrong side. The Washington Club you are looking at should be on the other side. The correct side shows the dome of the nation's capital. Below the dome against a black background are the words Washington Club, then straight rye whiskey bottled by The Overbrook Co. Inc., Baltimore, Md. As the label above shows, it's 86 proof, four years old, and distilled in the state of Illinois.

--B.K.--

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What prompted the showing of the Wight's Rye is as follows: As you notice the bottles are the same shape except the necks, I call one a straight neck, the other a barbell shaped neck. In the straight neck, we have two of the same bottle but again with these exceptions: one reads 100 proof and is 22 months old; the other reads 90 proof and is 4 years old. Since horse racing is a famous sport in Maryland again I imagine Wight's decided to show a winning rider coming in at the end of the race. If you notice, his right arm is motioning a victory gesture. This bottle is 90 proof and is 27 months old. It also has the old brown strip like the Maryland liquor tax stamp which reads Sept.

8



Would you believe that I don't know anything new on Ski Country? The only thing that has come in that I mentioned in the last issue is the mountain lion. I know that the raccoons, skiers and Indians have been at the distillery for some time. I talked to Mr. Harrison today and he assures me that the raccoons, skiers, woodducks, and some of the Indians will be in May 15th. That makes it rough for the dealer, collector and everyone, but I knew that it was going to happen. There won't be very many sets of Indians at first, so don't despair, there will eventually be enough for all the collectors.

I find it very difficult to write two months in advance and try to predict what will be out and when. Also, when I haven't seen the last article I have written. I have been dragging my feet a little this time hoping the new issue would arrive, but I know that if I don't get this out immediately, David is going to call and find out what the trouble is. Other people write about a very tangible subject, but to outguess Ski Country and McCormick distillery is impossible.

That brings up another point--WHO started the rumor that Ski Country was going out of business? I first heard this from California and that came from Michigan. Just to set the record straight, Ski Country is here to stay. In fact, Ski Country will be coming out in Europe and Canada, but different bottles, so that it will not affect your collecting here. Another thing I need to mention is that the Spectacled Owl is not planned for a mini at this time. I'm really disappointed. I thought that would be one to really look forward to.

Do you know that there are albums available for those gorgeous picture postcards? If you are interested, contact your club or your favorite dealer and they will probably be able to take care of you. At present the earlier issues have not been pictured as have been the later ones, but they will be available eventually.

The news on the Circus set is that the Tiger on a Ball will be available this month (May), and the Lion rolling the Drum will be out later this year.

by
Ruth Jones
SKI
COUNTRY



Just a bit of news now that I found quite interesting. I was standing around in Foss Drug waiting for some information and got to talking to a man that was also waiting. It turned out that he was connected with the Colorado Wildlife Association. He had a page of very crude pencil sketches, twelve in all, of Colorado wildlife birds that he wants them to make. As I understand, they are not especially interested in bottles that have been filled, but many of them will be, both 4/5 and mini size. It will be interesting to me to see how long it takes from the time a pencilled sketch is presented to the time it takes for the finished product.

Another bit on the Indians, and I hope I won't sound repetitious. A collector wrote me from Pennsylvania and said "There's so +#ç&#@&* (expletive deleted) Indians around I feel like General Custer." Since my collection contains only one Indian, I thought maybe they had something in Pennsylvania that I didn't know about. But it just turned out he was tired of hearing about the Cigar Store Indian and the set of six Indians.

The whole idea for the six Indians resulted when Ruth Benthin in Tempe, Arizona, wanted one to represent her bottle shop in Tempe. She contacted Father Terrance at St. John's Indian Mission School and arranged to have six boys dressed in full tribal costume. Several poses were taken of each boy and sent to the design artists for Ski Country, Mr. Goto, in Japan. This was done with the idea that he would choose the best pose of one dancer and return a mock-up of that bottle. He surprised her by making all six of the dancers on hand-painted ceramic bottles. Nothing dumb about him! The boys were paid for modeling to help pay for their costumes, which they designed and created.

This just proves you can write a lot about nothing. See you next time.

--R. J.--





GUIDE



BARNUM CIRCUS HORSE

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ___ 1. MAJESTIC EAGLE | ___ 18. AMERICAN OSPREY |
| ___ 2. SNOWY OWL | ___ 19. GREAT GREY KANGAROO |
| ___ 3. PEACOCK | ___ 20. OREGON CAVE MAN |
| ___ 4. GILA WOODPECKER | ___ 21. THE RINGMASTER |
| ___ 5. RED SHOULDERED HAWK | ___ 22. CLYDE |
| ___ 6. RAM | ___ 23. AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN |
| ___ 7. LEADVILLE LADIES | ___ 24. RED-HEADED DUCK |
| ___ 9. CALIFORNIA CONDOR | ___ 25. CLOWN BUST |
| ___ 10. GOLDEN EAGLE | ___ 26. SAGE GROUSE |
| ___ 11. MALLARD DUCK | ___ 27. GREAT HORNED OWL |
| ___ 12. CANADIAN GOOSE | ___ 28. BONNIE |
| ___ 13. PEACE DOVE | ___ 29. TOM THUMB |
| ___ 14. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES BURRO | ___ 30. INDIAN DANCERS |
| ___ 15. ELEPHANT ON A DRUM | ___ 36. RACCOON |
| ___ 16. FOX ON A LOG | ___ 37. WOOD DUCK |
| ___ 17. HARPY EAGLE | |



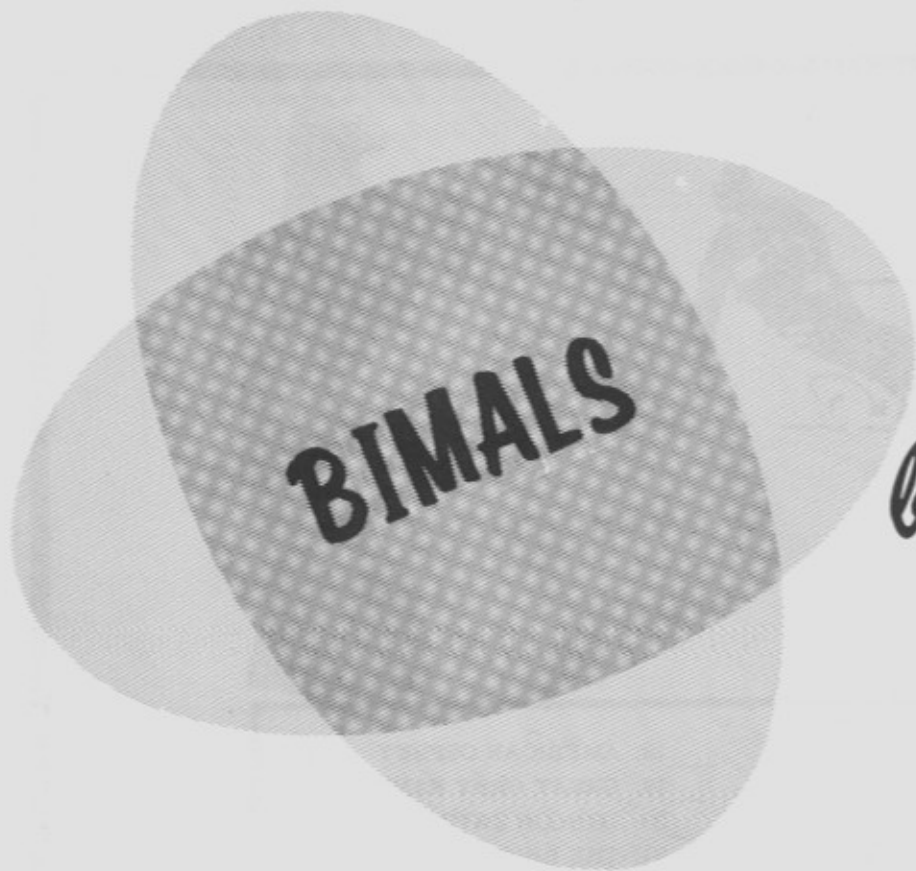
MOUNTAIN GOAT



MOUNTAIN LION



SKIER



by Darwin Williams

In this article, I would again like to look at some beer miniatures. This time they are from areas outside the San Francisco Bay area. As I have previously mentioned, I have a special fondness for the beer miniatures. This may send some antique bottle collectors up the wall, but given the choice I would rather add a beer to my collection than a whiskey. But enough of this, let's look at the pictures.

Photo #1 shows a Stortz Blue Ribbon, a Rainier Beer, and a Guinness Stout. The Stortz is a clear glass miniature, about 4 3/4 inches tall, without any embossing. I have no information about this brewery other than what can be read off the label. The brewery was in Omaha, Nebraska. The phrase "Gold Medal 1898" also appears on the label. I doubt if this is the date the bottle was made, so obviously it must have been made some time after this. I would guess, and I do mean "guess", that the bottle dates from around 1905.

The second bottle is a Rainier miniature. The reverse is embossed (see photo #2) "Rainier Beer Seattle U.S.A." This 5 1/2 inch tall bottle also dates from around 1905. The Rainier miniature is one of the more common beer min-

atures (BIMAL miniature, that is). I have had five, with labels, and know of several others in addition to many without labels I have just passed by.

The third bottle is the Guinness Stout miniature. This bottle is only 3 inches tall (without the cork) and is made from "black glass." Actually, the glass is deep purple when held up to the light. Guinness is located in England, making this a foreign BIMAL. I never try to date foreign bottles, so I leave the age of this one up to your imagination.

Now we move on to photo #2. As previously mentioned, this photo shows the reverse of the Rainier mini shown in photo #1. Also shown are two variations of a Silver Foam miniature.

If you look closely at the photo, you will see that the embossing on the one miniature is enclosed by a circle (black lettering), while there is no circle around the other (white lettering). Silver Foam was put out by the Grand Rapids Brewing Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This, plus the fact the bottles are about 5 1/4 inches tall, is all the information that I have on these.

That's all for this time...back again soon.

--D.W.--



Tiny Topicals

by Al Halpern

Our mini topic for this month is SPORTS, a subject that is dear to the hearts of many people throughout the world. It surprises me, however, that more miniature bottles have not been devoted to this topic when one considers how many thousands upon thousands of enthusiastic sports fans there are. However, there are certainly enough of them readily available on the market today to make a foundation for a good SPORTS collection that will make an attractive display.

One of the most sought-after group of SPORTS bottles is the set of six Olympian figures issued in Italy several years ago. But these bottles sell in the vicinity of \$25 to \$35 each - high-priced as miniature bottles go, and hardly the basis for the beginning of a collection of mini SPORTS bottles. These could, however, be added to your collection at a later date after you have formed a base with these more moderately priced bottles.

Ski Country's new miniature skier has just recently been released in two colors -- red or blue. This is a duplicate of the larger 4/5 size skier that Ski Country has had on the market for some time. With the unique detail that is attributed to Ski Country, this mini skier is a must in your SPORTS collection. You should be able to pick it up for about \$10+.

There are many miniatures of items used in sports that are more or less available from the European market. Generally speaking, the American mini manufacturers have steered away from sports items for some unknown reason. There are a couple of old minis of a football and a baseball that were issued by Meier's of Ohio in the late 1930's but, while I wouldn't

put these in the "extremely rare" category, they don't show up very often. Both of these bottles have stoppers on the top with the bottoms flattened so that they will stand upright.

To get back to the European SPORTS minis, McLech of Britain has duplicated the Meier's football except that the stopper is recessed into the flat bottom of the bottle. The McLech football is filled with Mead, the British wine made of honey and apples. Tennis buffs will be glad to know that among the McLech bottles is a very realistic looking white tennis ball. The label on this bottle indicates that it contains Bullfighter Spanish Sherry produced



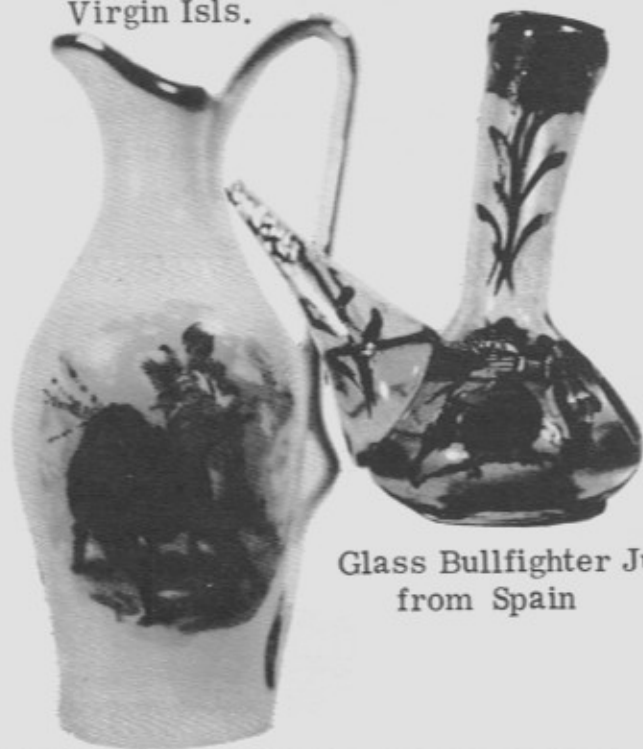
Hunter/Huntress
from Italy



This Month: Sporting Minis

in Jerez. McLech has produced two soccer balls. One is brown and has the details of a real soccer ball including the seams and the lace; the other is sort of a reddish brown, almost maroon, and is smooth with several embossed lines going around the circumference of the ball. The brown soccer ball is the more real looking of the two but the latter is the rarer of the two bottles. Both of these bottles contain Scotch Whisky. All of these McLech bottles have flat bottoms so that they will easily stand and the stoppers are recessed into the bottoms so that they cannot be seen. The stoppers are made of plastic and, because they

Bullfighter Jug
Virgin Isls.



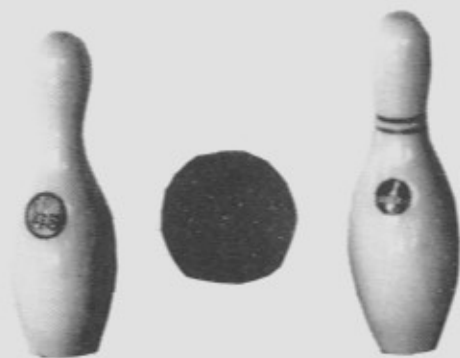
Glass Bullfighter Jug
from Spain

are in the bottoms of the bottles, do present a "leaker" problem in some instances

There are two golf balls in my SPORTS collection -- one produced by McLech, the other by Beneagles. Both contain Scotch and both are just about exactly the same size as a real golf ball. Here again the stoppers are on the bottom but they are not recessed this time. On each ball the stoppers give the impression that the ball is sitting on top of a tee. McLech identifies its golf ball with the use of a label on the side of the ball while Beneagles has its paper label on the bottom with some red lettering on the sides of the ball.

W.L.S. Limited of Torquay in Britain has issued a set of three miniature bottles which make up a bowling trip -- a black bowling ball and two white bowling pins. While the two pins are the same size and shape they differ in that one of them has two orange bands encircling the neck of the pin while the other does not... and each pin has different lettering on the sides. All three of these bottles have the stoppers in their bottoms, covered by the W.L.S. paper labels which indicate that the bottles contained British peach, cherry, or apricot wine. (W.L.S. also produced a golf ball and a football some years back.)

Now we get to the point where we could get argumentative over the subject of which activities belong to the sports field. I am certain that there are those among you who consider sports to be only the competitive activities such as baseball, football, soccer, etc. There are others, I am just as certain, who would also include hunting and fishing, backgammon, etc. For purposes of allowing the



WLS Bowling Set

McLech Golf Ball

McLech



Soccer Ball

McLech



Tennis Ball



German Soccer Ball

mini collector more from which to choose to go into this topical collection, let us go along with the latter group and include everything that could possibly be considered sporting activity. With that in mind, we would like to mention that there are some older chess pieces that were issued some time ago and which command a high price, but if you want to include some moderately priced chess pieces in your SPORTS collection, your best bet are the Garnier two-ounce chess pieces that were issued in 1972 and often still are found. There are six different chess pieces -- King, Queen, Knight, Bishop, Rook, and Pawn -- in both black and white. These contain Creme de Menthe and are about five inches tall. Or, you might turn to another article in this issue and see the new issues from Beneagles in this field.

Going back to McLech again, there is a set of circular somewhat flat milk glass bottles, only about 3 inches across, that is extremely pop-

ular among mini collectors. There are six different bottles, each one having a different sport scene on it done in a cartoon style which is probably the reason for their popularity. The scenes include a mountain climber, a butterfly collector, a fisherman, a pheasant hunter, and a couple of -- what do you call men who participate in the "fox and hounds" chase? Huntsmen? These milk glass bottles contain Scotch and are packaged individually in a Scotch plaid box.

Another McLech bottle is one in the shape of a beer tap handle and is called, strangely enough, "Ye Olde Pub Handle." Pictured on the front of the bottle are three red-coated mounted riders with four hounds off after the fox.

And with that, I will say "Tally Ho" . . . and suggest that you go riding off after those bottles to add to your collection of SPORTS miniatures. . . .ah . . .

McLech Pub Handle



McLech Fisherman



Dickel Golf Club



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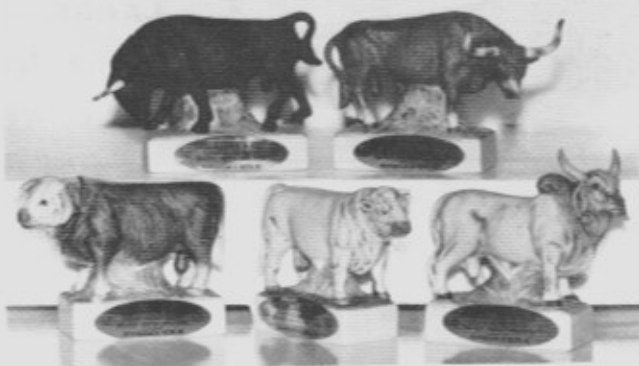
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