

MAY-JUNE 1976
VOL. III NO. 3

THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



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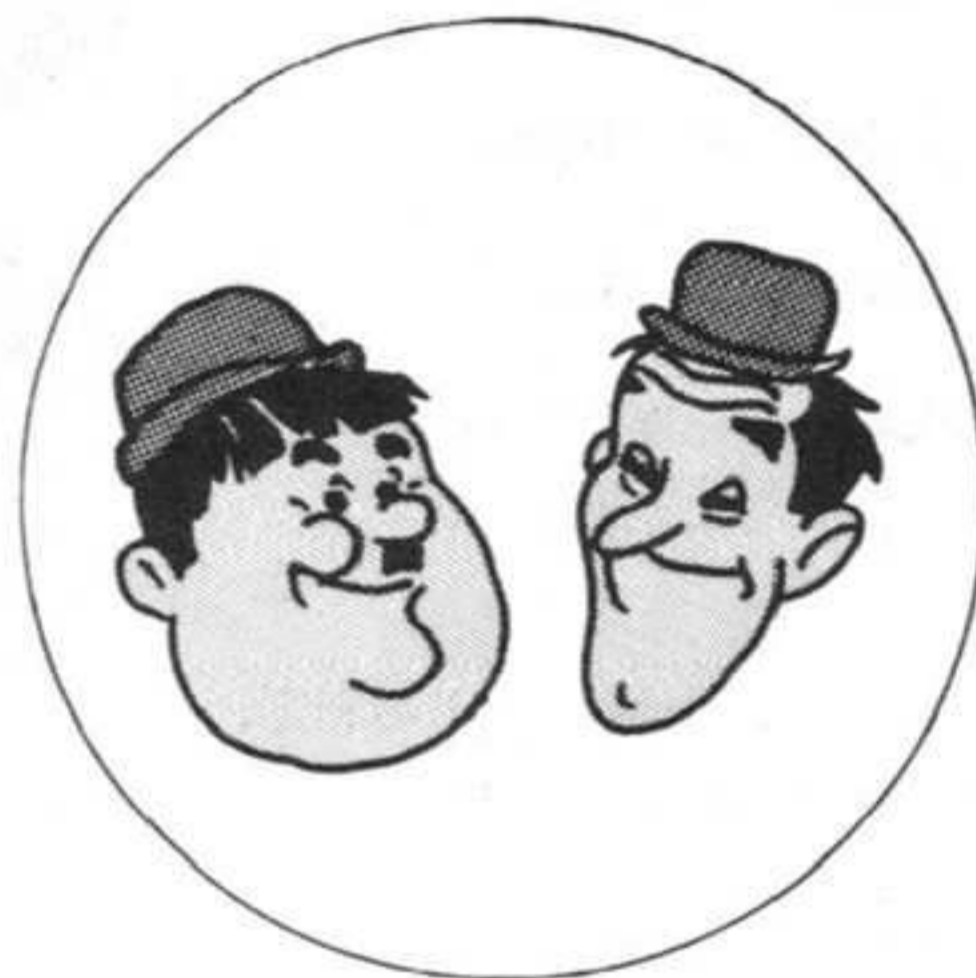
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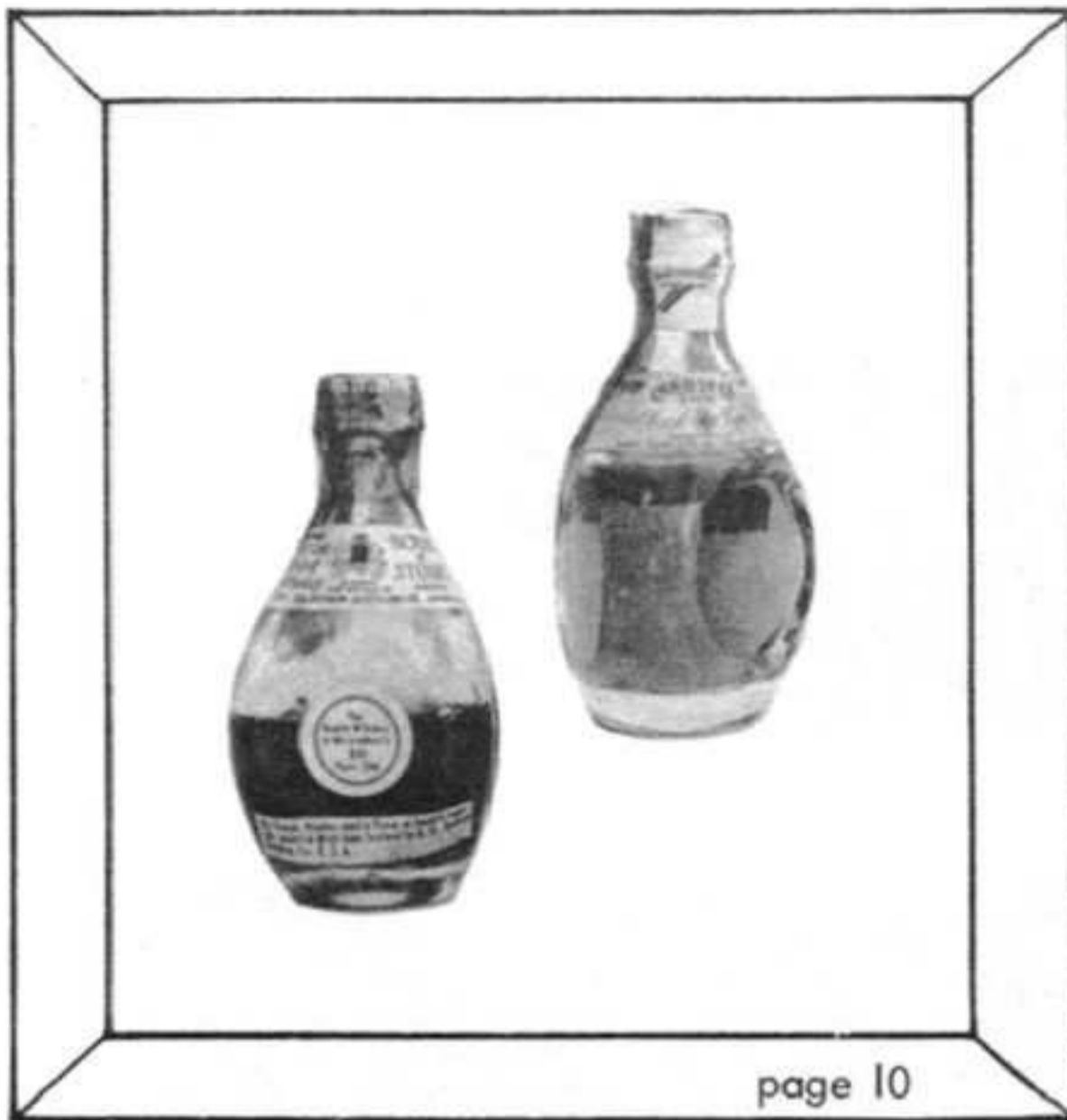
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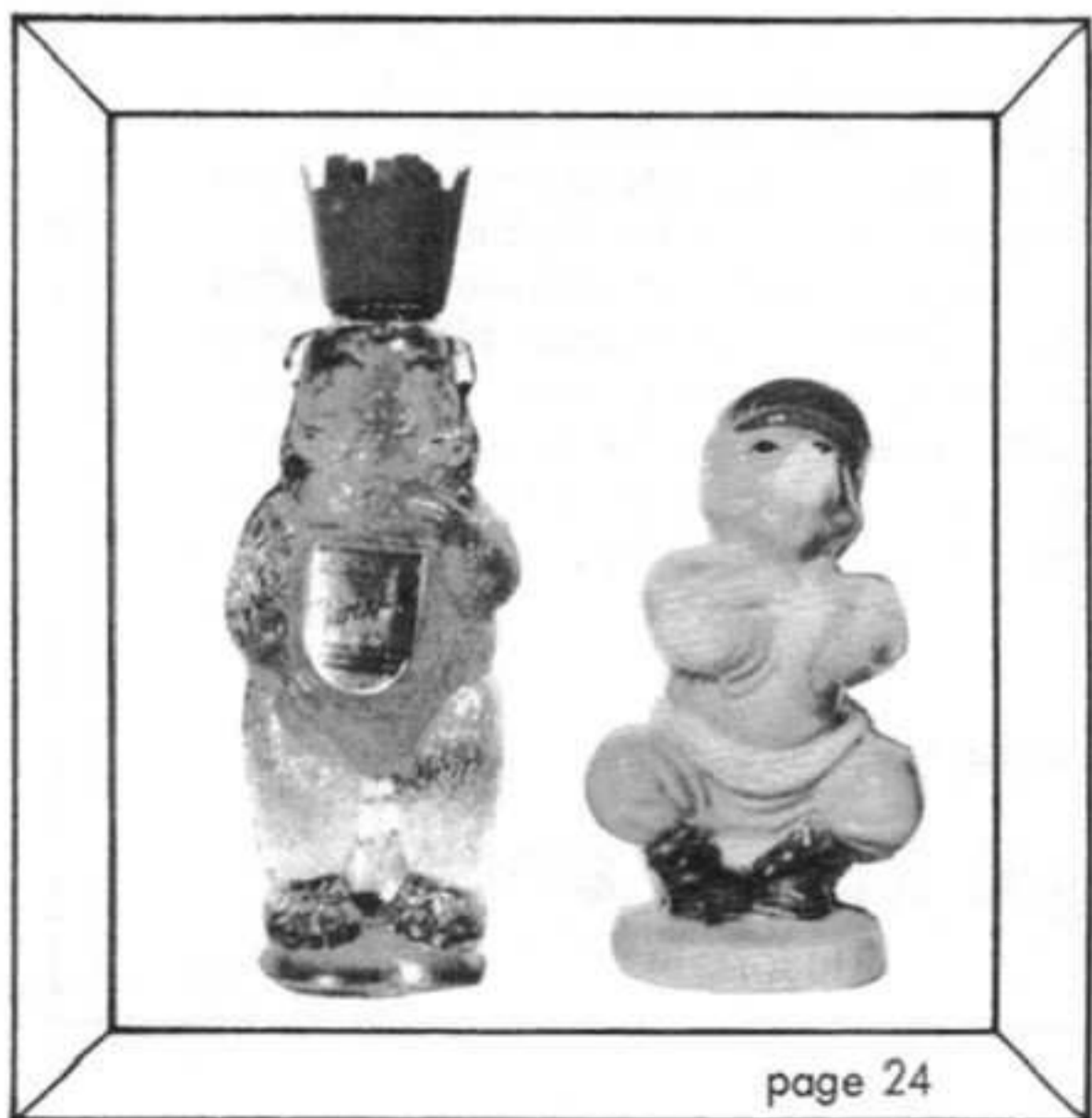
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OUR COVER

If you aren't extremely impressed with the M^CCormick Patriots on our cover (and pp. 14-15), then to our way of thinking you're not a figural collector. The Spirit of '76 mini will complete the set and will be issued later this year. As soon as possible, we'll picture it for you.

EDITOR: David M. Spaid

ART: Mary L. Spaid

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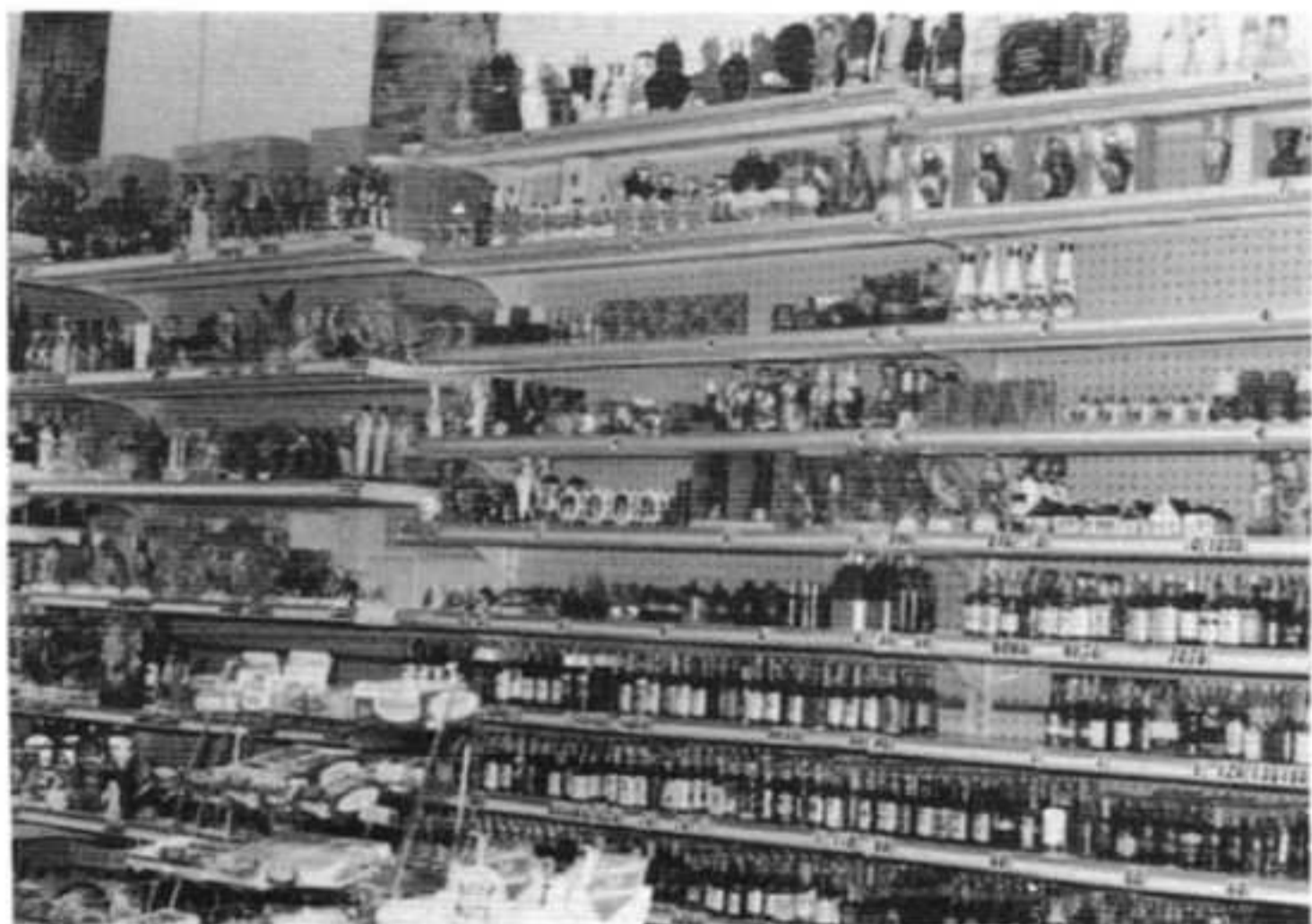
PACKAGE LIQUOR
BEER



Jerry & Lynn Cohen in the new store.



Jerry holding the Pancho Villa on Horseback.



Just a portion of the miniatures available!

For many years now the visitor to Las Vegas has found the mecca of bottle collectors here at the Bottle Collector's Liquor Shop. But no longer need you brave the wilds of North Las Vegas... no longer must you sidestep box after box of bottles... no longer will you need to venture anywhere else for all your bottle needs. Yes, we've finally moved to our new location. We're waiting to see you... drop on by!

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JERRY COHEN
382-6645

LET'S TALK

Here we are again. I think this time we've got more information and pictures for you than ever before. At least it seemed that way when we were putting this issue together. You will notice that we got so enthused with the number of articles that this column is only one page this time.

I suppose the first item on the agenda we should talk about is the puzzle from last time. Oh, boy, the proverbial Pandora's box was opened with that one. For example, Cornish Mead was in there twice, as was Alta and Ardo (but that should have been Luxardo) and several collectors found a few which weren't even on the list Bill Odell sent us.

Anyway, two prizes were given out to those who were both first and had the most correct number of responses. John Sullivan worked like a demon and was first so he got the Ski Country Lipizzan Horse. Second place went to Darlene Sandstedt and she received a Jon-Sol Totem Pole.

Now I'd like to thank some of the others who receive Honorable Mentions (which is another way of saying they weren't the firstest with the mostest): Daryl Spackeen, Gene and Steve Lathlean, and Ralph Vaughan. And to the rest of you...keep trying!

I've mentioned before in here about enthusiasm and the possible club starting in Canada, but I had no idea that a couple of people could get so involved so quickly. In a letter from Pierre La Salle, I also received a copy of an article which appeared in the largest French newspaper in Quebec, Dimanche Matin. (If all goes well, you'll see a reprint of that article here next time.)

Pierre mentioned that he had just received confirmation of an appearance on Montreal's ch. 10. It was to be shown on April 23, between 6 and 7 pm. Hopefully we'll have more on that for you next time too. But for those interested in helping them form a club, write to Raymond Hoare, C.P. 92, Ville LaSalle, Montreal H8R 3I7, Quebec, Canada.

Our last item of business is the very important new metric system which is going to be used on all liquor bottles. By 1980 all bottles will have to be in the new metric sizes. For us that means that 1.6 and 2 ounces will go by the boards in favor of the new 50 milliliter size. Personally I think this just might be one of the most important things to happen in the mini bottle field of collecting.

Next time we promise some fantastic pictures and information from Pat McMullen on collecting the Brown-Forman private label whiskies which were made for the different railroad companies many years back. You'll also see some unshown Rocher Freres in an article by Ron Souza. Til then, keep thinking small.
--DMS--

MINIATURE COLLECTORS

The Miniature Bottle Mart

A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively to the Collector of Miniature Liquor Bottles

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COMING TO ITALY?

or if you're just interested in corresponding with a fellow collector, write:

Giuliano Pratolini

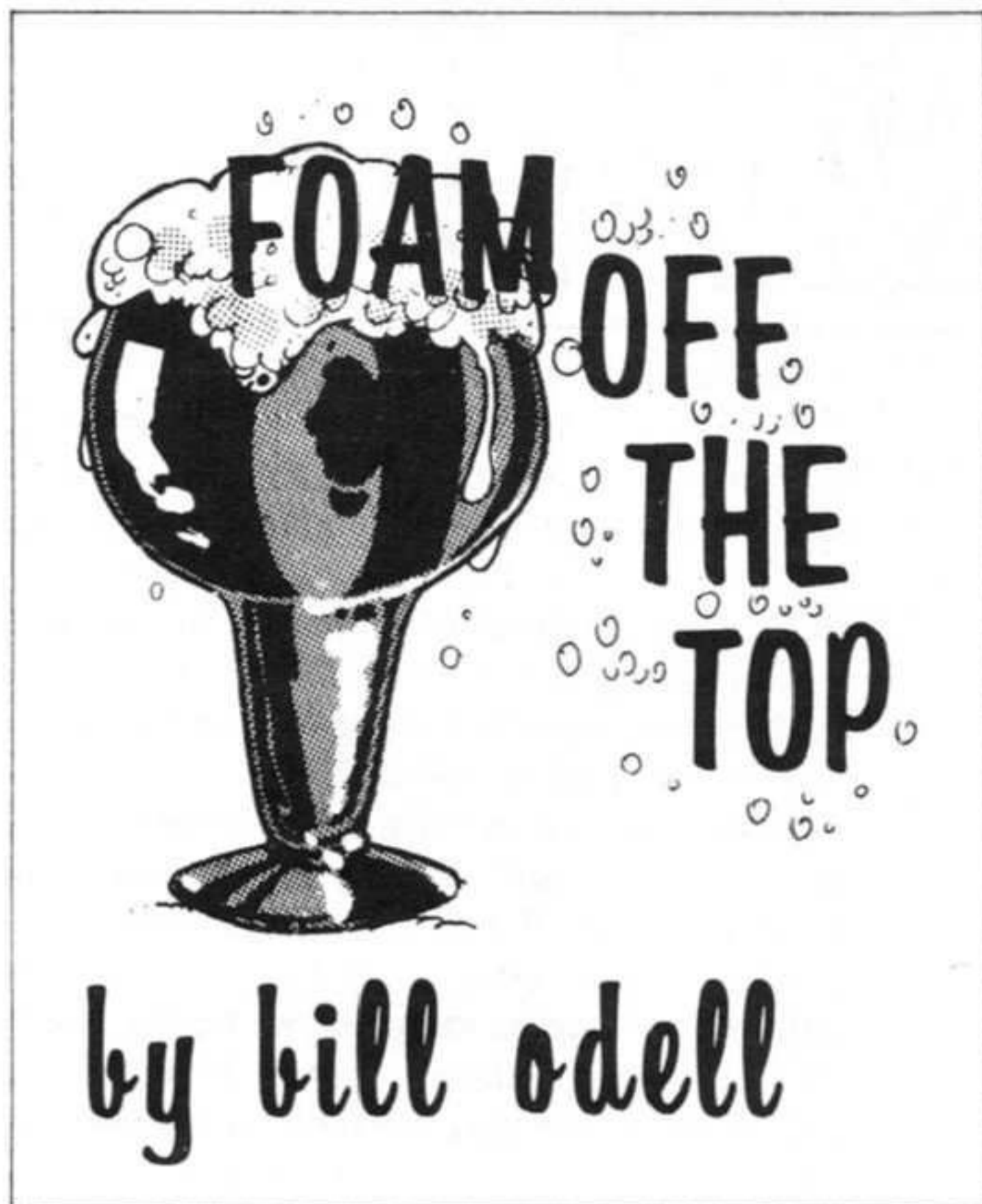
-BAR TIRESTE-

Miniatures in glass and ceramic for the collector.

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(Continued from last issue.)

We now move to the Pacific Northwest for a look at the products of the Olympia Brewing Company. The brewery opened in 1896 as the Capital Brewing Company at Tumwater, next door to Olympia, the state's capital. In 1902 the company changed its name to the Olympia Brewing Co. in line with its label and product. During Prohibition, the company kept going by selling Apple-Ju and other products (see Feb. 1976 issue of PBR). Starting up again in 1933, Olympia was the only label produced by the brewery until the spring of 1975 when they bought up the faltering Hamm's Brewing Company. They now produce Olympia, Hamm's and Buckhorn at both the Olympia and the St. Paul facilities. "Oly" is now one of the "big ten" of American brewers and is expanding its market heavily into the midwest. Hamm's had also improved its financial picture since being bought out.

In picture #9 we have a stein and a 4 1/4" bottle with the Olympia labels. These, like all the bottles in 10 & 11, are ones that I have manufactured. The Olympia Brewery Co. pro-



9



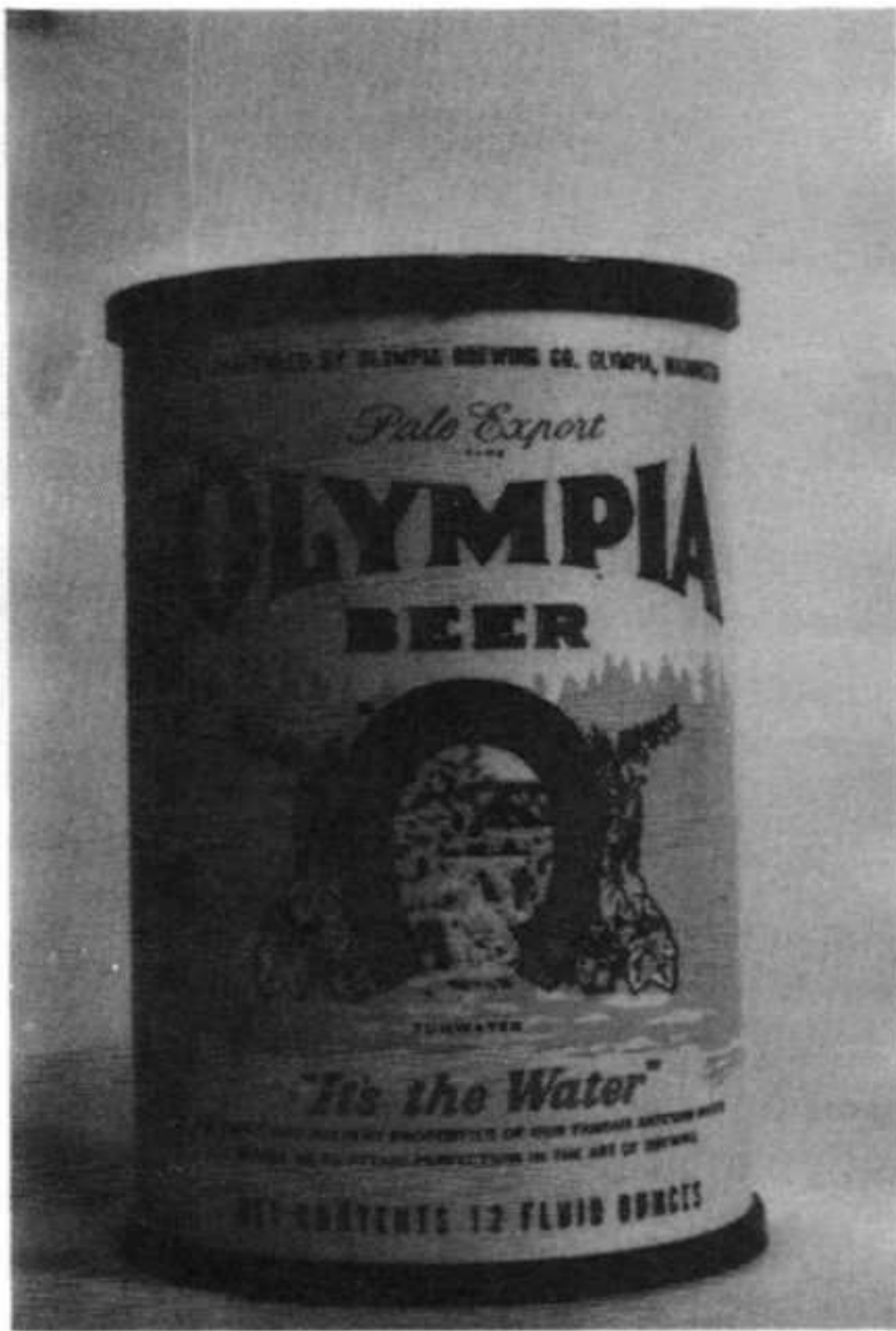
11

duces a promotional brochure that includes a miniature label. By cutting this out and then using a decal making process, I can make a decal label and transfer it to old labelless bottles.

The same process produced the Blitz Weinhard Bavarian Dark Beer bottle in #11. These two unusual bottles in #11 were produced by Northwest Glass of Seattle in 1970 for a souvenir bottle for the Northwest Master Brewers

Convention that was held in Tacoma. The Olympia can in #12 is a paper clip holder and is still available at the brewery for around \$1.50.

Also in the Northwest we have the Seattle Brewing and Malting Company that was founded in 1878. This company moved to San Francisco in 1916 when Washington State voted in Prohibition. In 1933 Emil Sich, who with his father owned six breweries in Western Canada, moved into Seattle and bought up the old Bay-view plant of Seattle Brewing and Malting. Opening as Sich's Century Brewing Company and producing Rhineland Beer. The firm bought the rights to use the name Rainier in Washington, Idaho and Montana in 1936 from the San Francisco company that had also re-



12

opened after prohibition. In the 1950's Emil Sich bought the sole right to the name Rainier and the company changed its name to Rainier Brewing Company as the Rainier Brewing Co. of San Francisco closed its doors.

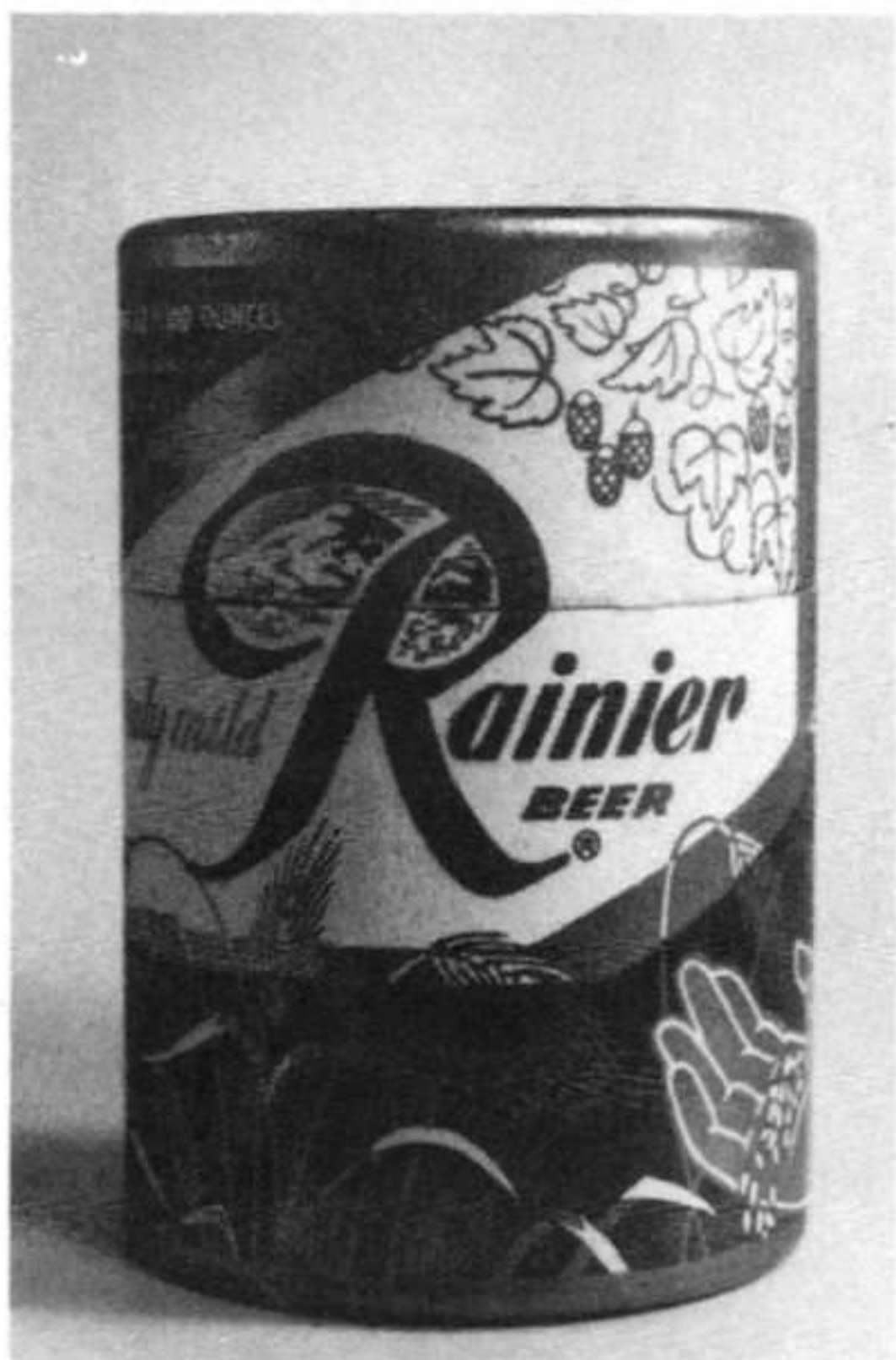
In picture #13 we have a pre-prohibition (1894) mini. This is embossed on one side and has a paper label on the other. This is in the \$35 class. In picture #14 we have a Rhineland miniature. This is a cigarette lighter



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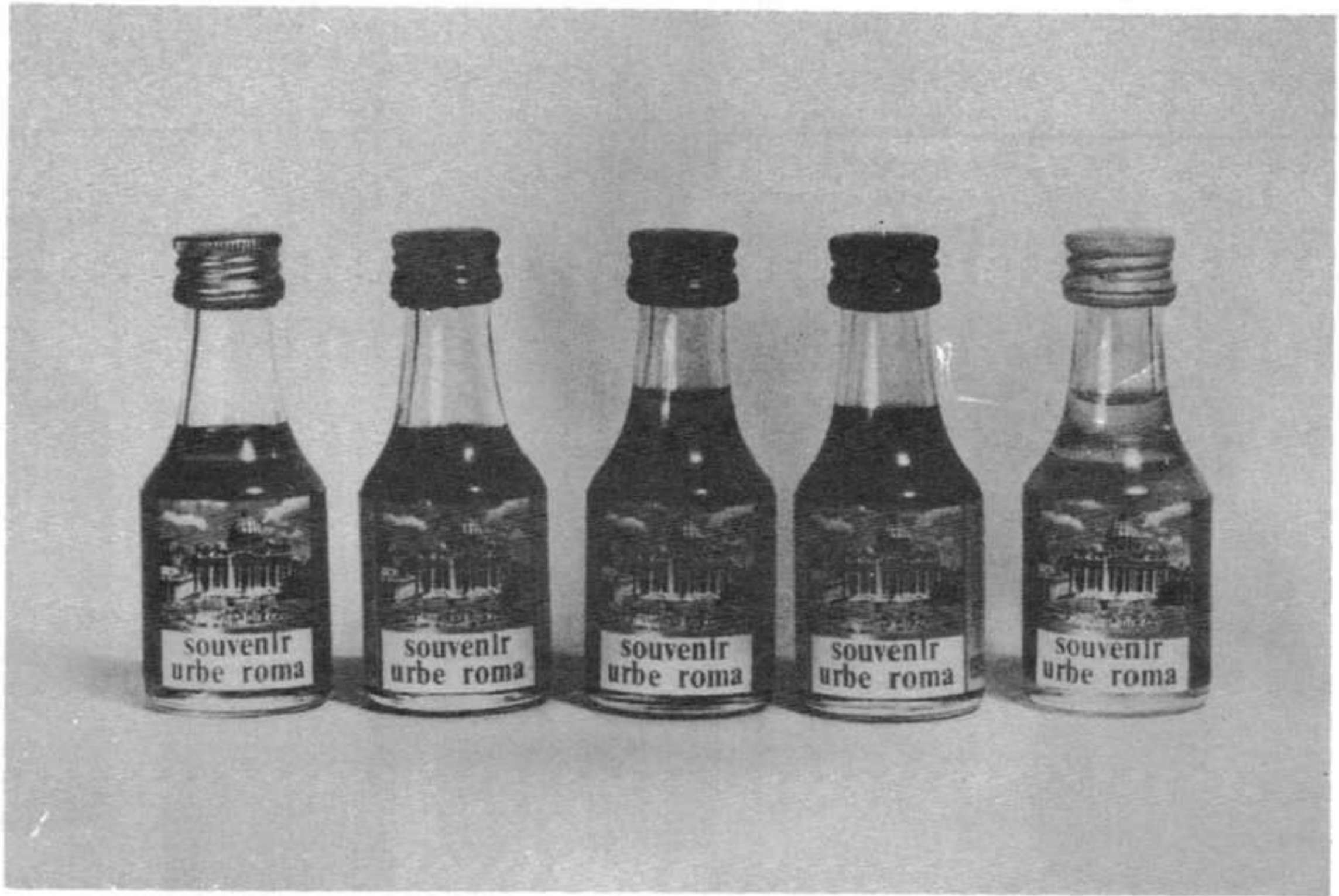
and its label is a copy of the original 1933 world's fair label first used by Sich's in Seattle. I have never seen another one so it would be impossible to value. #15 is the Rainier Jubilee can which was produced in 1953 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Rainier label. The full story of the real can appears in the January issue of Beer Can Collector's of

America magazine. The mini is a 3" box of matches and is very scarce. I know of only four and wouldn't part with mine for anything.

In pictures #16 and #17 we see the outside and inside of one of the many boxes of assorted bottles put out by the Bill's Specialty Company. In this set there are 24 different labeled bottles; 15 of them are foil labels, one a decal, and 8 paper labels. The value of a set like this would be around \$100+. It would depend on the bottles in the set and their condition.

That's all for this month. Watch for something new on the market in the article in the next issue. --Bill O--

Sassano & Pagani



Recently we received the two photos you're seeing on this page from the Milan, Italy, firm of Sassano & Pagani. The accompanying letter stated: "Our firm is highly specialized in the production of spirits (miniature bottles - mignon), their characteristics being the label reproducing various sights of the world."

You can see in these two pictures that the labels are very colorful and would be a nice addition to any U.S. collection. While the large picture shows only sights of Rome, the smaller picture has bottles produced for other cities.

Along with these souvenir bottles, Sassano & Pagani also act as importers and bottlers of several liqueurs in more conventional bottles.

a little *scotch* harry ford



Although not primarily a Scotch collector or drinker, I have accumulated, as does almost any miniature bottle collector who likes glass bottles, a few Scotch whiskies that I would like to share with you.

The first bottle is from the Gilbey's Company. This bottle has an oval shaped bulls eye embossed on the back. You might notice that this label is different from most and you've also probably seen that the tax strip stamp across the tip is missing. This is because this bottle, as well as several others shown here, were brought directly from Europe and thus are not the imported labels usually seen here.

The second bottle is of the "Dimple" variety and is aptly called "Dimple Scots". This is by John Haig & Co. This bottle shows a proof of "70", but does not show the volume of liquor inside as required by U.S. Customs laws.

My next European variety is King George

IV Old Scotch Whiskey by the Distillers Agency, Ltd. of Edinburgh. This bottle is made of very thick glass and has a concave back. The top foil says: Unscrew to Open. Again, this bottle shows no proof or volume indication.

Continuing on, we come to the Black Barrel Scotch by Berry Bros. Co. of London. Here our label is in the shape of a keg used to age this fine whiskey for not less than six years (when bottled). Berry Bros. are known for many other brands here in the U.S. Do you know what they are?

The next bottle is a more common one seen here in the U.S. The bottle is embossed Long John Scotch Whiskey. The colorful label shows a one-legged Long John standing on shore, with his ship in the background, toasting us with a glass of "Highland Treasure" while his crutch rests on his treasure... a barrel of Long John Scotch Whisky, of course. Long John and

his parrot must have thought this whisky was a treasure after several months at sea.

Now we come to the "Wee Nippy" by the Three G (GGG) Company of beautiful downtown Burbank, Calif. For the purist, this is not a true scotch, but "this liqueur is made from imported aged Scotch Whiskey and the finest quality of American made grain alcohol."

This bottle of Wee Nippy is for the big drinker as it measures in at 90 proof and contains all of three fluid ounces.

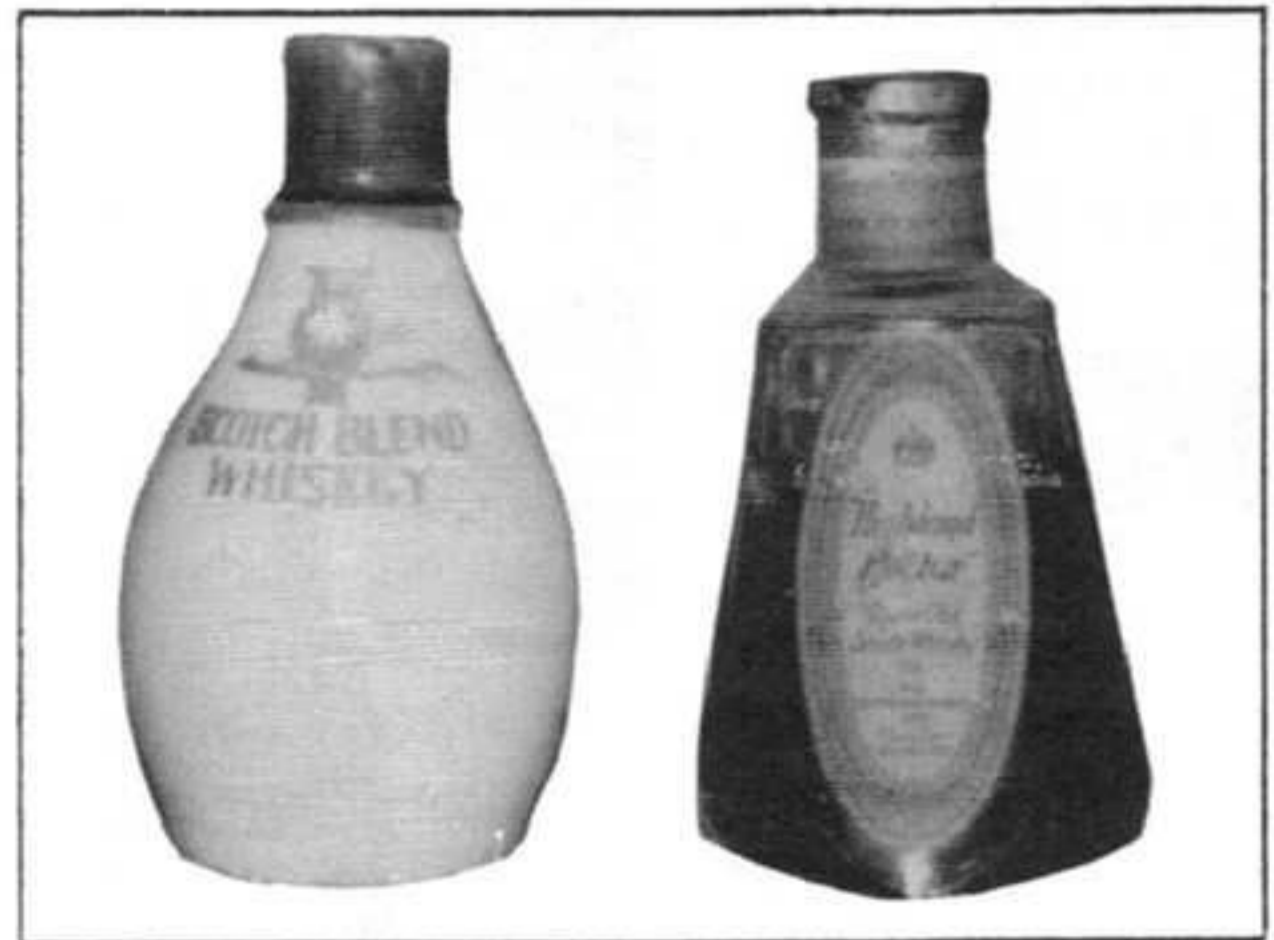
The next bottle is one of those junk store finds. It is a beautiful little jug (with a small handle in back) which at one time contained someone's favorite scotch blend whiskey. Unfortunately, there is no brand name so it must have been a giveaway. Of course there are many giveaways for the scotch collector. One of my favorites is "A Little Scotch", a brown porcelain figural bagpiper.



My last two scotches are very old glass bottles which were also brought directly from Europe. The first is Rare Old Scots Whisky from the previously mentioned Distillers Agency, Ltd. of Edinburgh, Scotland. It is very possible these bottles are from the 1930's or earlier but it is much harder for us to tell with European bottles because of the lack of tax stamps.

The very last bottle this time is Old Original Choicest Scotch Whisky of Great Age. The label details the birthplace of this fine scotch as Old Princes Street in Glasgow in 1810. This beautiful glass bottle is embossed "Reg. No. 756 789" on the bottom.

I hope you have enjoyed my diversion into the "Scotch" bottle field. Keep those scotch names coming to John Sullivan and good bottle hunting to you all. --HF--



TRAVELING



THE WORLD WITH CINZANO

by ALFREDO SPINELLI

FROM CHILE

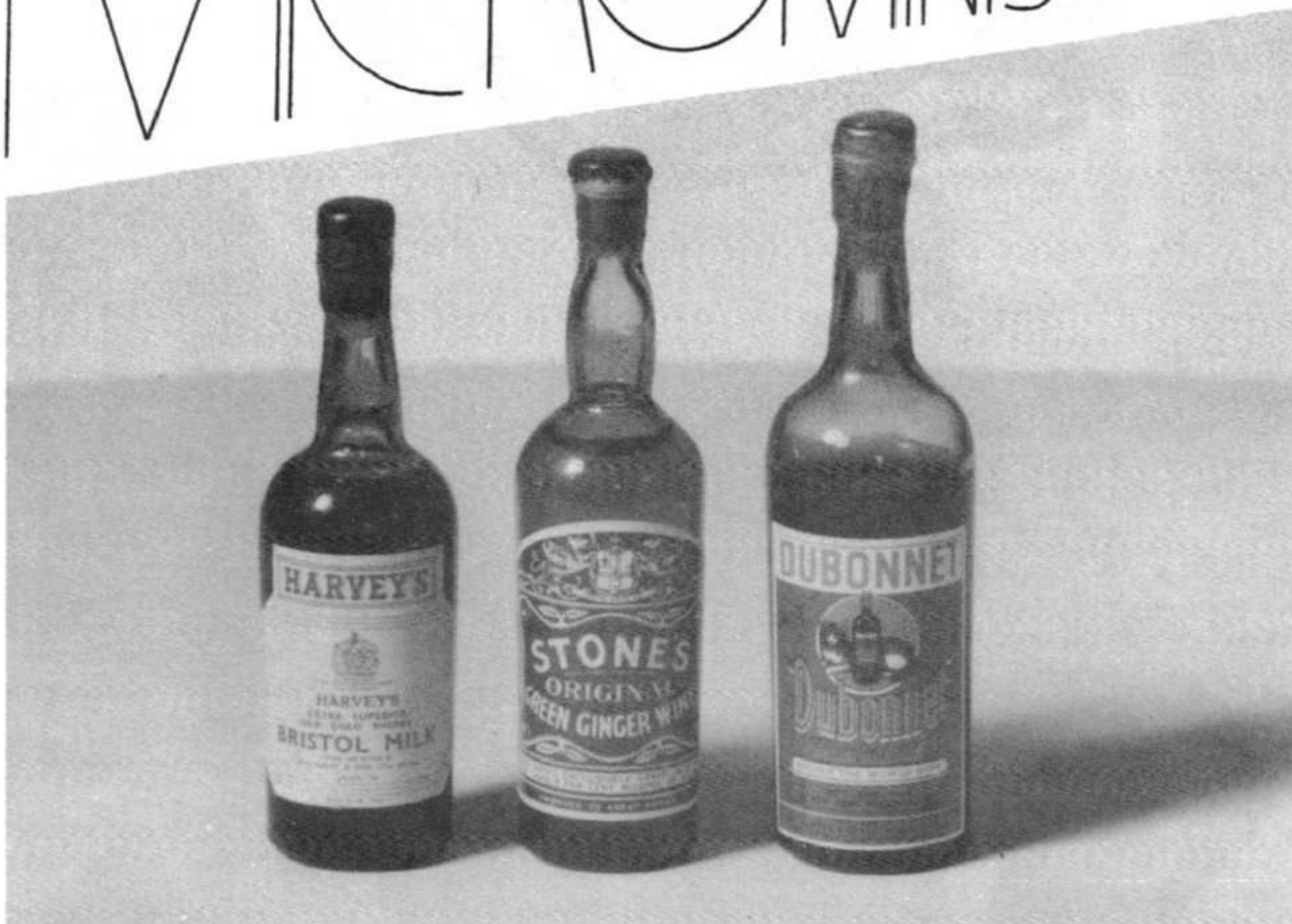
Of the miniatures made by this company throughout the world, these are the ones of the largest size. They were made until the year 1950. They are bottled in only two flavors - Torino and Blanco. A few years later, a change was made in the texts of the labels. Both types have the same bottling and the same lead cap.



FROM PERU

Cinzano vermouth is sold in Peru also. They manufacture one type of this beverage, the best known. The bottle is one of the smallest and is manufactured here. We do not know if the contents are imported or if they are also manufactured in Peru. The cap is painted (see photo).

MICROMINIS



Vic Visalli

Before I begin, I would like to mention a correction of last month's article. For in it I stated that "coins have been used...", and you noticed a key. Well, there must have been a defect in the film.

This month's article features another three members of the Gold Seal Miniature family of London, England.

The Harvey's Bristol Milk is the smallest of the trio, standing 3 inches high. The copper color and white label blends nicely on the green glass. It contains sugar syrup, sealed by cork stopper, surrounded by a black foil band.

Next, measuring a gigantic 3 1/4" high, is a Stone's Original Green Ginger Wine. It, too, is made of green glass, upon which is a green and white label bearing what appears to be a coat-of-arms.

The Dubonnet Wine Aperitif is one of the embossed micro-minis, bearing the word Dubonnet above the label. This micro-mini features three labels. The rear label gives one suggestions on "How to drink Dubonnet", such as "Neat before each meal, if possible with a thin slice of lemon." The front label is olive red, white, gold, and black, and features the trademark of cat and bottle in the center. The third label gives me another clue in my search to find the purpose for which they were produced. As you may recall, in my last article I mentioned the possibility of the minis being children's dollhouse trinkets. Well, the seal on the bottom of the Dubonnet reads, "This Kiddicraft Gold Seal Miniature..."

That's all for now. Until July when I'll be featuring.....?? --V.V.--



MCCORMICK

Salutes the Bicentennial



If this magnificent McCormick Paul Revere bottle to the right could actually speak, it would announce the arrival of the new Patriot set...in miniature.

Many collectors are already familiar with the Patriots in the large size; however, this is the very first public showing of the miniatures. The eight will be available about the time you receive this issue and will be sold in individual, see-through gift boxes; and as a set in a special "Spirit of '76" wooden box.

The gift box is beautifully hand-painted and the individual compartments inside are all lined with blue velour. The cover is detachable allowing the entire set to become a decorative wall hanging.

The number of sets will be very limited with the complete set selling for a suggested retail of \$119.95. Individual decanters in the see-through carton will retail for about \$12.95@.

Editorially speaking, as far as I'm concerned, these are the cream of the crop...see if you don't agree.
--DMS--



KOBY'S KOLLECTABLE KOLUMN

by BOB KOBY

Now that I have found a better formula for taking pictures, I have decided to alternate my articles between straight gins, blends and assorted items for your pleasure.

I would also like to take a few lines to plead with collectors in the Detroit area not to gum up the works when you visit flea markets and explain to dealers how much to charge or what the bottles are worth. I have recently spoken with another collector in this area and he has had the same problem. Someone, or perhaps certain collectors, are educating dealers as to price. We all know that they either get them for nothing or pay ten to twenty-five cents each. If you are looking for figurals that is fine; however, when they have empty airline bottles don't tell them they're becoming collectors' items. Don't begrudge another collector when he comes across a straight collection and the dealer then tells us that he was told to charge \$1.50 or more because they are valuable.

Now let's get to the gins. I realize it's somewhat late, but if there are any single female collectors of kissing age, please line up. The Mistletoe Distilled Dry Gin is by W. P. Squibb Distilling Co., Vincennes, Indiana. "The Aristocrat of Gins" is proclaimed on the label. It's 90 proof and this label was adopted in 1945.

The Red Horse was prepared and bottled by D. J. Bielzoff Products of Chicago. This 70 proof liquor is fully evaporated though originally sealed with a 1947 Maryland tax stamp. The label is black while the horse and rider are red.

Continental Distilling of Philadelphia bottled and distilled The Cobbs Creek. The label is silver with red and blue letters. The bottle is square, frosted and embossed on the side, Continental Distributing Co. This one was a 90 proof.

The two Calvert flats are somewhat different in label; one had a metal cap, one is plastic; one is embossed on the bottom Made In USA. One has a 1937 Illinois tax stamp while the empty one sports a green/white Florida 1 1/2¢ tax stamp.



The blue oval-labeled Calvert round gin is originally sealed and affixed is a Florida 7 1/2¢ 1949-1952 tax stamp. The current version of this bottle does not carry the picture of their famous George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore, and as per usual I'm showing the wrong side of the label. The correct side displays a square label against blue background and shows three different side glasses of martinis...I guess.

The Old Quaker 90 proof is fully evaporated, originally sealed, and has an applied cap (as I call it) or pull tab. Its frosted and embossed on the back Old Quaker and shows a bust of the Quaker.

The Plymouth Original Gin is distilled and bottled in England by Coates & Co. (Plymouth) Ltd., Plymouth, England. It's 94.4 proof & affixed with two Maryland postage stamp-type brown stamps.

Paramount Lime-flavored Gin is artificially colored, 80 proof, empty, with an Alabama



control board tax stamp. If you look closely next to the word gin, you can spot the price of the bottle in pencil, 39¢. A Florida orange state-shape 1 1/2¢ tax stamp can be seen just below the shoulder of the bottle.

Royal Arms Buchu & Gin, a compound of 30% alcohol was made by the H. H. Shufeldt & Co., Peoria, Illinois, under the Food and Drug Act, June 30, 1904, Serial 3995. On the back is affixed a green postage size 1/4¢ Internal Revenue tax stamp. It's corked with a blue foil wrapped cap. The lamb on the string I have no idea about. The bottle itself is square and the contents gold colored.

My first of the assorted things is the Jansen's Advocaat. The label on the back states "made with 100% grain products, neutral spirits and the yolks of new-laid eggs - shake before using. The bottle itself is of clear glass but gold painted. The ruffia that covers the cap is blue with gold foil. The hat is of red velvet with green trim and the tunic is also red with gold foil stripes. Until the next issue, L'Chaim, as we would say in Yiddish! --B.K.--

A Visit To *Boozeville*

Lloyd McLeod



The Circus is coming to town. This is one of the most exciting things that can happen in a small town. In the "good old days", the circus was about the only place you could see a real live camel.

The circus train arrives just after daybreak and before long a large tent city springs up as if by magic. Local boys are hired with the promise of a ticket to the afternoon show. They work with the old hustlers in laying out the big top. They also help carry and set up all kinds of tent equipment and grandstand parts. And finally, they carry water to the camels and other animals.

The train is made up in part by a long line of flat cars with circus wagons lashed onto them. A ramp is placed between each car so the wagons can roll down the line and off the end car. At that point a team of horses or an elephant is hitched to them and away they go. Some of the wagons are loaded with tents, stakes, and rope. Some are very fancy with steel bars on them. This type holds the lions and tigers and are called cage wagons. The camels, elephants, and horses ride on the train in regular cattle cars.

The fancy wagons are used in the parade down main street to help advertise the show. One very large ornate wagon leads the parade. It is the band wagon and holds all the people who play in the circus band. Two of these old band wagons are on display at the Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota, Florida. The Sig Sawtelle Circus "Pony Wagon" and the Barnum and Bailey "Two Hemisphere Bandwagon" are there to be seen by all. The Barnum and Bailey one is the largest circus wagon ever made; it was used from 1902 to 1918.

The two camel bottles shown here are, of course, Giveaways. The fact that a camel can go a long way on one drink must have been the thought behind the words printed on each one: Have a Camel. They are both all brown and made of porcelain. One has Toronto impressed into its side. The other should have the head of a camel for its stopper; however, it's been replaced by the drinking cup. The one with the man on top is 5 1/2 inches tall including the man. The other one, including the barrel, is 4 1/8 inches. Made in Germany is printed on the bottom of each. --L.M.--

Ski Country

RUTH JONES

When I returned from New Zealand, I had a very nice letter waiting for me from Al Halpern. It answers my questions about Jenny Lind, and he has very kindly offered to let me use it in my column. He certainly knows a lot more about her than I could find in the library. The following information was in the letter:

"Following P.T. Barnum's successful presentation of freaks and oddities in his New York Museum as well as his lucrative tours exhibiting Tom Thumb, Barnum was anxious to establish himself as a person with culture who had the capacity to bring to the public something more than freaks and oddities. At the time (1840) soprano Jenny Lind, at age 29, was establishing a reputation as an outstanding operatic singer in Europe, having played before Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and King Leopold. Her voice was praised by Mendelssohn, Chopin, and Wagner. Hans Christian Anderson was one of her close friends. Although very little of her fame had spread across the Atlantic to America, Barnum was well aware of her talents and popularity through his European agents. P.T. saw her exactly as what he needed to establish himself as a producer of class.

"Jenny Lind had three ambitions -- one was to earn enough money so she could contribute to her favorite ambitions -- the first of three to earn enough money so she could contribute to her favorite charities, especially to endow a hospital for poor children in her native Sweden; another was to get out of opera, which she hated, and give performances as a soloist; and, last, she wanted to retire at an early age. Consequently, when Barnum offered her a contract to sing 150 concerts in America and Cuba in a period of 18 months at \$1,000 for each concert, plus he would furnish her a maid, a butler, a secretary, a carriage and driver, a travelling companion, a musical director,

Jenny Lind:
out now



and more, she jumped at the opportunity to come to America. The total cost of the 18 month contract to Barnum was \$187,500 which he agreed to post in advance with his London bankers.

"Prior to Jenny Lind's first appearance, Barnum had developed such an extensive publicity campaign in the U.S. that by the time the singer's concert tour began, Jenny Lind song



books were being sold. These were in addition to Jenny Lind gloves, bonnets, shawls, robes, mantillas, dolls, chairs, sofas, pianos, tea kettles, and even sausages. In Havana a cigar was named for her. When tickets to the individual concerts went on sale, men big against each other for the opportunity to buy the first ticket. In Providence, the first ticket was sold for \$650 in gold. Everywhere she went huge crowds greeted her. Once, she inadvertently dropped a shawl from a balcony and by the time it hit the ground, it had been torn to shreds by the crowd below in search of a souvenir of Jenny Lind. Most of her concerts were sell-outs under Barnum's clever publicity campaigns. At the end of nine months Jenny Lind, wanting to get out from under Barnum's pressure, asked him to release her from her contract, which he did. The gross receipts for Jenny Lind's 93

concerts were about \$700,000 and her net receipts were more than \$176,000 because during those nine months, Barnum had given in to her demands for more money. Barnum's net profit from the concerts was about \$215,000, but his profit in prestige was incalculable. Much of Jenny Lind's earnings went to her favorite charities and, while he didn't publicize it, Barnum often matched her charitable donations from his own pocket."

My thanks to Al Halpern for the above information, and I think you will all agree that it makes Jenny Lind much more a person that you can relate to.

The blue winged teal should be out by the first of April and the ferrets soon after. An Indian Chief and a Palomino horse are also in the offing. Also, a submarine is to be made, in mini only, for a convention to be held in Denver. There will be 1800 submarines and 1200 spectacled owls, but I don't know when the owls will be out.

My trip to New Zealand was a great success. Not many places have minis, but I was able to bring back all I could carry, and met two very nice collectors. I highly recommend a New Zealand vacation, or "holiday" as they say.

--R.J.--

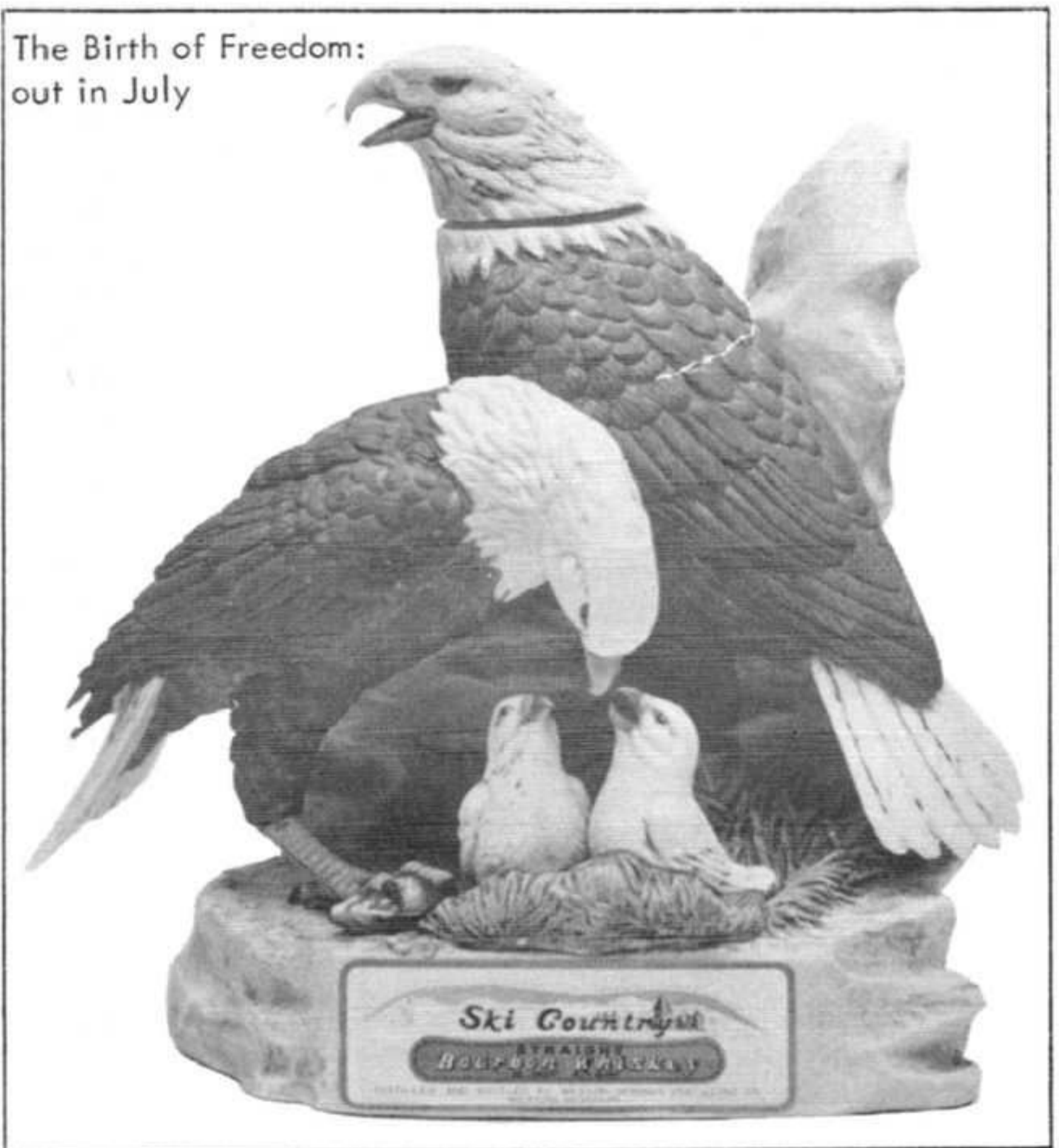
Spectacled Owl:
ready soon



Ski Country guide

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

The Birth of Freedom:
out in July



- ___ 28. GREAT HORNED OWL
- ___ 29. BONNIE
- ___ 30. TOM THUMB
- ___ 31. INDIAN DANCERS (6)
- ___ 37. RACCOON
- ___ 38. WOOD DUCK
- ___ 39. SKIER (2)
- ___ 41. TIGER ON A BALL
- ___ 42. LION ON A DRUM
- ___ 43. JENNY LIND (2)
- ___ 45. CIGAR STORE INDIAN
- ___ 46. WILD TURKEY
- ___ 47. CONNECTICUT ROBIN
- ___ 48. MOUNTAIN GOAT
- ___ 49. LIPIZZAN
- ___ 50. PALOMINO

Famous Firsts

by David M. Spaid

For those of you who remember back last year when we kept putting off writing about Famous Firsts, breathe easily. We're actually presenting the new bottles (or should I say part of the new bottles) exactly when we said we would.

To give you some background material, the following is a portion of a letter received from Mr. Richard E. Magid, the owner and guiding light behind Famous Firsts.

"To take care of trivia first, the four bells were issued as the four Alpine Bells and they probably will be the most valuable since we won't produce anymore after this first batch is gone. I think it was 2,000 all told of all four colors. The mini Spirit of St. Louis has been sold out for about three months...although we did not promise to limit any edition, we have not reordered yet nor do we intend to. We discontinue editions rather than raise prices.

"A slight correction: R. E. M. stands for Richard E. Magid rather than Martin. The latter was a pseudonym I used at the beginning so that I would not trade on the name of my father who was a very prominent liquor industry executive until he retired in 1973. It worked out very well since my customers bought things from me rather than handing out a courtesy order to the son of a friend and business associate.





"Probably maintaining our usual swirls and eddies of controversy...venturing as we always do into the unusual and 'never before' we are entering our latest line of 'miniatures' which are not really in the classic interpretation, rather a package which houses a miniature. The justification? BEAUTY IN BOUTIQUE. We have been buying tiny pieces of artistry throughout Europe, particularly in Italy...not worrying whether or not it could contain a liquid. For three years, we have been collecting pieces in pewter, metals, ceramics, bronze. We almost issued them last year...took a lot of orders and then tore them up because we weren't satisfied with the package. We quietly issued them in 1975 in a limited number of markets...sold out whatever we had in stock...the demand now already has us out of our minds."

From the limited selection of what we're

able to show you, I think you can see why the demand has been great. The three pictured are part of three different sets...representing a total of 21 different pieces. The sets are: Victorian Bandsmen (5), Medieval Warriors (10), and Florentine Silver Drinking Cups (6). Pictured from these sets are the Right Horn Player, Warrior #6, and the Elk.

The Bandsmen and Warriors each come on top of a box with a small container of Famous Firsts Sugared Brandy (pictured) inside the box. The container of sugared brandy fits up inside the drinking cup section of the Elk and the other drinking cups (which include the Wolf, Boar, Horse, Dog, and Rabbit). Each of these drinking cups will stand upright when turned upside down so that they will hold wine. I couldn't imagine a lesser liquid being consumed from them. Could you?

tiny topicals

by Al Halpern

One large category that I haven't yet explored as a subject for miniature collectors is -- animals. I use the word, Animals, as a general category and in with Animals could be included birds, fish, and all types of Wildlife. A category of this nature would provide enough miniature bottles to fill an entire wall and then some when you consider all the bottles that have been issued by Ski Country, Luxardo, Garnier, McLech, Rutherford, Borghini, Collectors Art, and on and on. To attempt to cover that complete subject in one article would be, while not impossible, certainly impractical. Perhaps the best way to handle this area of topical mini collecting would be to concentrate on just one particular animal at a time, or on one small group of animals.

I recently had a visit from Leroy and Rosemary Stowe of San Diego and Mrs. Stowe mentioned that she collects all types of miniatures that appeal to her but she has concentrated on building up a collection of Bear bottles. The conversation reminded me that another southern California collector of minis, Sanford Hornwood, has also been specializing in min-

ature Bear bottles for some time.

With the expectation of a miniature Polar Bear bottle very soon from Ski Country (it may already be issued by the time this reaches you), this would be an ideal time to explore the possibility of arousing the readers' interest in a specialized collection of these furry animals.

In addition to the Polar Bear we have just mentioned, Ski Country is planning a miniature of the Colorado Bear which has already been issued in 4/5 quart size...and if you like detail in bottles, Ski Country certainly knows how to give us that.

In 1972 Luxardo issued a set of Wildlife miniatures and among the six animals was a Polar Bear. While it doesn't have the detail that the Ski Country bottles have, it nevertheless is probably the best-looking of the six bottles in the Wildlife set. Unfortunately, Luxardo did a very poor job of under-glazing on the bottles and it's difficult to find one of these Polar Bears without a brown stain or two from the liquid seeping right through the pores of the bottles. Consequently, we suggest you empty the bottle rather than run the risk of the leakage. According to a notation on the bottom

Luxardo



Isaiah



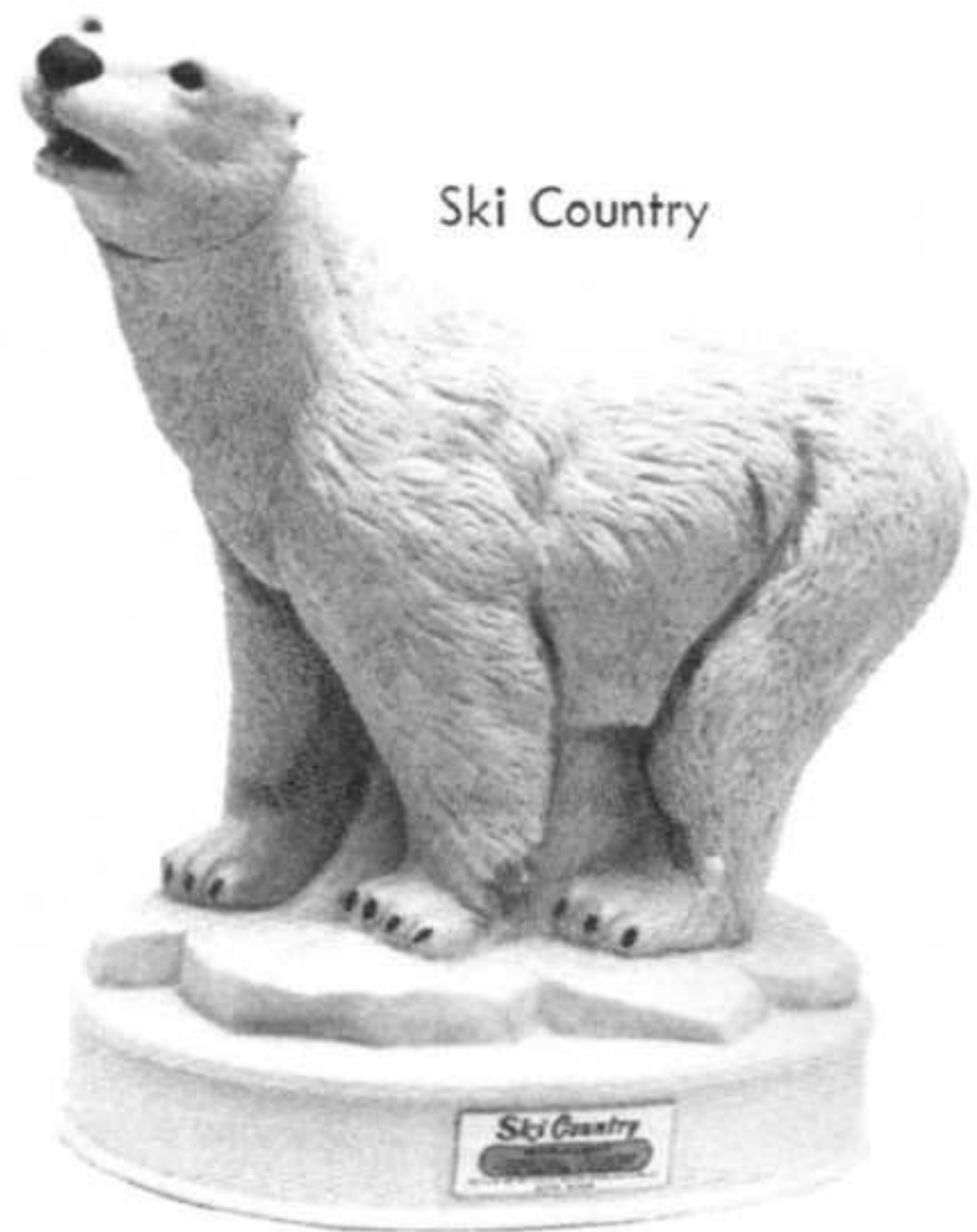


of the bottle which was made in Italy, there were either only 792 of them made, or only 792 imported into the United States...I don't know which.

Isaiah has issued two miniature Bears. One is a very attractive Panda Bear clinging to a tree trunk. His tongue, protruding from a corner of his mouth, is curled up on the side of his face. The other bottle is an upright grey-colored bear plodding along with a string of fish -- his favorite food -- slung over his shoulder. These Isaiah bottles were sold, full, in Japan -- and empty, in Hawaii.

An accordian-playing Brown Bear was issued for a liquor store in Maryland as the first of a series of musical bears but except for a re-issue of the first Bear (the re-issue is wearing a little cap), we have never seen any more of the series...and it's been at least a couple of years since that first one was issued. Made in Portugal, the bottle contains a Rose Wine. There were some problems with the stoppers popping out of these bottles, seemingly of their own accord, but nevertheless this is one of the better-looking lower-priced mini bottles on the market today.

For you lovers of clear glass figural minis, McLech has issued a Koala Bear in a tree, filled with Mead, the British honeymoon drink. It stands about 3" high and the black plastic base is also the stopper.



Generally speaking, I am not particularly turned on by the mini bottles that have been coming out of Argentina. I think most of them are rather crude. But I must say that I have given the mini Polar Bear made in Argentina under the Marques de Zujar (Rocca) label, a favorite spot in my collection. While it does not have any fine details carved into it, I guess it's the artistic shape of the bottle plus the unusual paint job on it that makes it so attractive.

Again in the glass figural category is the Barenfang German Bear with the red plastic stopper that looks something like a huge crown. This has a label on the raised portion of the bottle right smack in the middle of the bear's tummy. The entire bottle is a little over six inches high and is very impressive looking.

The newest addition to my collection of Bears is the rather simple looking tan Bear, about 4 1/4" high, brought here from Italy, a product of Distilleria Fratelli Valenti of Granarola. The brand on the label is Don Suarez and it contains a liqueur. (This bottle was pictured in the last issue of the MBC.)

There you have it, ladies and gentlemen, that's all the Bears I can think of right off hand, but I am certain there are others. Look around, you'll find them. Meanwhile, think about a topical subject in which you can specialize. ...ah...

CHIPS NIPS NEWS



May-June Special
Rocca Telephone
\$6.50

Well, Alfredo arrived again! This time he was loaded with bottles from Spain. And, believe me, we were impressed. Of course, we are always impressed with Alfredo himself. It just can't be possible that one man can be so completely devoted to bottles. Sometimes I think he wouldn't even stop to eat unless someone forced him. And, he's just as devoted to coca-cola.

How can I tell you about these bottles? The most impressive are the six different soldiers and cannon. The soldiers are Duca D'Asti and are designated as follows: 1890 Hussard Prussian, 1814 Lancier Polonais, 1896 Admiral Anglaise, 1894 Officier D'Enfant Suisse, 1812 Dragon Imperial, and the sixth is a Grenadier of some sort which got sold before we even got its name. The cannon, although by Gamondi, is a perfect match for these soldiers, and will roll on its two wheels which I believe are metal.

There are six other bottles by Gamondi: the Canary, Venus, Amphora, Jug, Pipe, and Candlestick. All of these bottles are of the same types as the cannon and I certainly want them all in my own collection. The price isn't bad, either. Each bottle is \$7.50 in the store and today's price tags are usually a bit higher. Forgot to mention that the soldiers and cannon are \$10--and well worth it!

But on the brighter side, and what made me the happiest was the number of \$5 bottles that he was able to come up with. The Spanish Senorita and Bullfighter of which I've only had a few and sold for \$10, we can now offer you at \$5 (store price) along with the following: Bardinets jugs, Porron Catalan, Soccer Ball (different labels of different soccer clubs), Grapes, Pisco Face, Totem Vudu, Torre de Oro (glass), Pin Bottle, Bota Pamplona, and the Face (one side old, other side young), dogs and cats by Hirsch (glass heads on wooden platforms), and a Pisco.

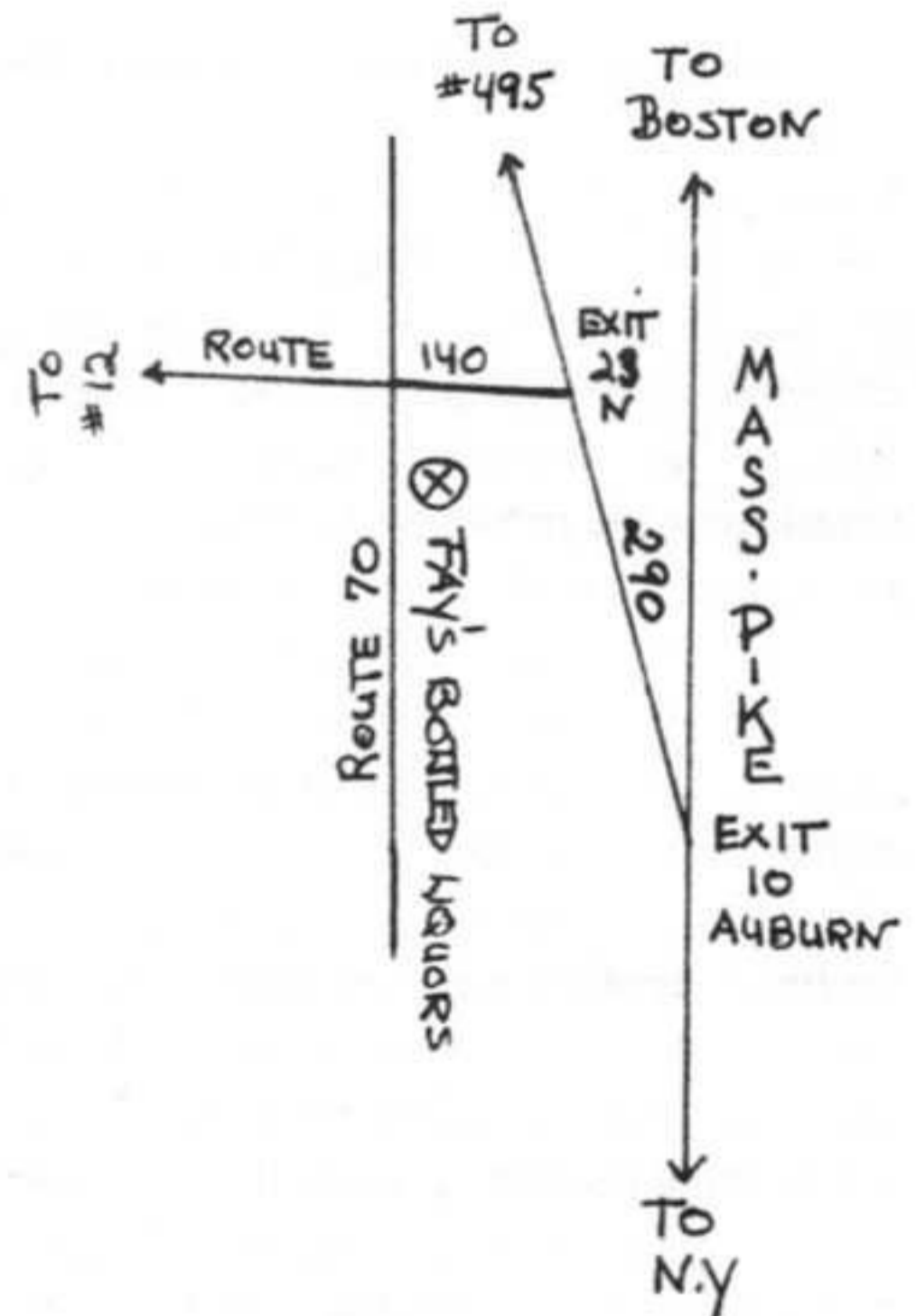
Then at \$6 we have the typical Spanish Man and Woman which are very brightly painted glass figures--quite different from the Senorita and Bullfighter. These are a "must" for "people" collectors. There is also a group of ten different heads, busts and bodies comprising Adam and Eve, King Feisal, etc. We don't have all of these yet--just those mentioned, but more are on the way. Amazingly enough, he found bottles identical to the Garnier Safari Animals (exclusive) in Italy--also exclusive. However, we are able to sell these at what the others cost us, \$6. So if you missed out on the Garniers, you're ahead of the game here.

A leather soccer ball, Papa Noel from Germany and a very different Senorita with "goo-

goo" eyes comprise three sort of special bottles at \$10. Also have a very few ceramic Torre del Oro for the same price. Oh yes, Guitar-Panderetas at the \$6 price too.

Are you confused? So am I--particularly after three days with Alfredo. Don't forget that these are store prices I have quoted. Sure hope you'll be able to take a trip this way, but PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, don't come without letting me know first. We need two people in the store to handle visitors interested in seeing everything. I will be gone a lot this spring, summer, and fall, and I am turning golf pro--teaching, not the tour. Expect to be in the store, and available most evenings from 5 pm on and Saturdays. But just to be sure, let us know when you're coming and we'll arrange things. Have fun. --Ginny Fay--

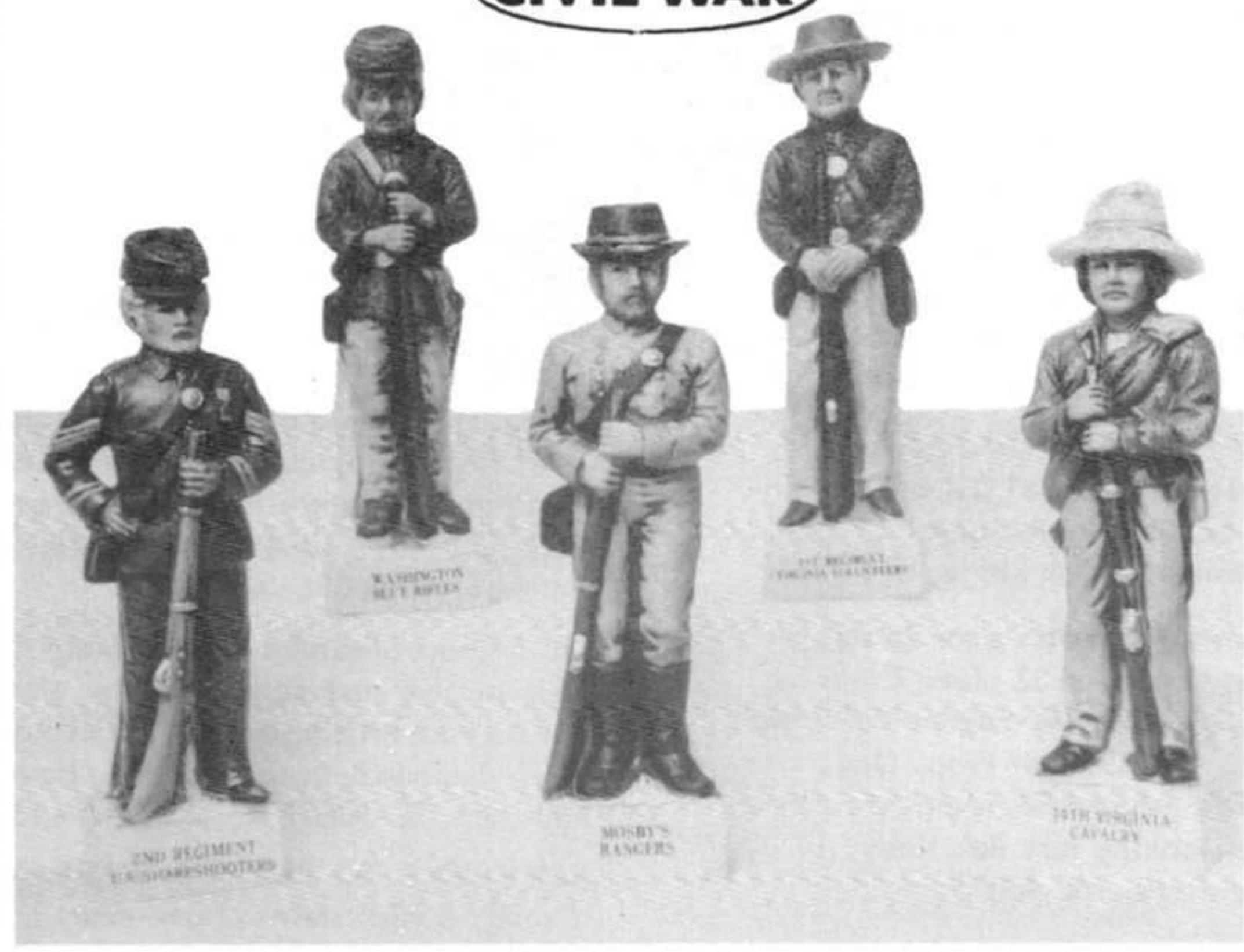
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