

THE

VOL. XII No. 6
No. 72 1986

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Let's Talk

Welcome to 1986. This begins our thirteenth year. Sometimes we seem to hang on by the skin of our teeth; however, this year looks surprisingly good article wise. As far as the new bottles themselves go, 1986 is still a totally unknown commodity. But, for those of you who are interested in the "creme de la creme" there will be an Usquaebach Edinburgh Crystal mini available in the near future. On the ceramic side, there will be four Wild Turkey minis and three of the Dug Picking brothels. So, 1986 could just be a banner year for bottles after all!

February first has come and gone and still the questionnaires arrive. The typing will begin this week and it looks to be a monumental task but one which will be more than satisfying for all those who wanted to be involved. Hopefully the directory will be next issue.

A big welcome back to two of our old regulars, Frank Gerlach of Germany and Bob Kay... of Illinois! We're really happy to have their columns in this time and I know you'll feel the same way when you've seen the bottles.

Indoing the "Our Cover" paragraph adjacent, I somewhat editorialized. But maybe it's time someone did. What I'm speaking about are all the old bottles which have disappeared out of the U.S. Every week a letter or two arrives in which the writer offers to generously trade a new scotch for an old bourbon. Now we all have our opinions but a new bottle isn't usually in the same league with an old one. I'm not even attempting to tell anyone how to trade; I am asking you to stop to think that once a rarity is gone, it's gone.

See you next time with lots of bottles and (hopefully) names!

--DMS--

THE

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The cover this time shows three absolutely terrific, marvelous, and totally superior glass whiskeys from approximately half a century ago. Bottles such as these seem to be approximating hen's teeth... they just aren't to be found. Obviously anything from fifty years ago is now on the rare side (including a few of us collectors), so let's honor them and hold them in esteem in our collections!

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Wild Turkey



WHAT'S NEW

Old, Odd, or Unusual

SMALL TALK

It's time to look at some of the new bottles making the rounds. Unfortunately, new doesn't necessarily mean exciting. These are fairly standard bottles this time with no remarkable shapes or embossing.

The current mania seems to be the flavored Schnapps liqueurs. The Cream liqueurs haven't really worn out their welcome yet, but the race is on to have the most bizarre flavor and thus appeal to even the strangest of palates. My particular favorite is the Root Beer Schnapps which is not shown here. It certainly has the zesty tang of Root Beer but certainly couldn't appeal to many past-pubescent years who are out to sneak their first drinking experience. Anyway, off to the bottles at hand.

We have four Hiram Walker bottles all exactly the same except for their contents which are Hazelnut, Orchard Orange, Wild Strawberry and Snappy Apricot. These are all glass bottles and

the ones shown here at least still have their tax strips. Oh yes, each bottle is exactly 48 proof at our prescribed 50 ml.

Next we come to the Boente Grapefruit Schnaps (note the one "p"). It's an import from Germany and is one of three bottles brought in locally by the same company. The last (and in this case a well deserved least) is the little plastic DeKuyper Apple Barrel Schnapps which is but one of several of the new DeKuyper pieces. It may be delicious but it still comes in plastic!

Our last two bottles are from South of the Border and are Gusano Rojo (red) and Gusano Oro (gold). The gusano is the friendly and some say delicious worm found in each and every bottle. The little bag of salt is attached around the neck of the bottle for either a macho mini man or a mini macho man. Wonder which it is? However, worm collectors, take notice!



melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article, I would like to feature three prepros along with an assortment from the 1930's and early 1940's. The three prepros are somewhat unusual in the fact that they all have their original seals, are better than half full and are in remarkably good condition considering their age. Personally, the condition of a bottle is very important and I have passed up or traded bottles with bad labels. Fortunately, none of the following bottles fall in this class.

The first of the prepros is Howard Club Whiskey A Blend by the Howard Company, 21-23 Lyman Street, Springfield, Mass. It is pre 1906, has a lead foil seal over the cork and is probably extremely rare. Bottle number two is Hermitage Pure Rye Whiskey, distilled and bottled by W. A. Gaines & Co. of Franklin Co., KY. It is 100 proof, BIB 1906-1914 and has a very "busy" label with much printing. Hermitage also produced a Bourbon Whiskey with

a similar label. The last of the prepros is Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey by the Duffy Pure Malt Whiskey Company, Rochester, NY, USA. It is 44 percent alcohol (88 proof) and from about 1910. This bottle is embossed, has a front label, back label and neck label. The bottle was patented Aug 24, 1886, and is fairly common without labels.

Bottle number four is Wood-Stock Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey bottled by Walter P. Powers, Chicago. It is 92 proof, one year and nine months

old and has a 1935 Illinois tax stamp. This bottle looks like it could have been purchased in 1985! The next bottle is Redville Straight Bourbon Whiskey bottled by Paramount Distilling Corp., Chicago, IL. It is 80 proof, two years old, distilled in Indiana and was made about 1936. Bottle number six is Blue Ribbon Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey bottled by George Benz Sons Inc., Saint Paul, Minn. It is 100 proof, BIB circa 1940 and was distilled by Bernheim Distilling Co., KY.



In our next group of three, the first bottle is Tops Blended Whiskey Blended and Bottled for the Old Mountaineer Distilling Co., Louisville, KY. It is 90 proof, four or more years old, copyrighted 1940 by Philip Blum & Co., Chicago and used an embossed Daviess County (Fleischmann) bottle. Bottle number eight is Sampson's Red Wing A Blend of Straight Whiskies Blended and Bottled by American Grain Distillers Inc. Detroit, Mich. It is 90 proof, six months old and was made about 1936. Sampson's used this same embossed bottle for a series of different brands and most are very scarce. The last bottle is Washington Club Bourbon Whiskey bottled by the Overbrook Company, Inc., Baltimore, MD. It is 90 proof, heavily embossed and has a Jan. 13, '39 Maryland tax stamp.

Finally, I am truly amazed by the many fine bottles which have survived down through the years.

As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me at home (507) 454-1499. Look forward to hearing from you this year!

Until next time.... MELO



DUG PICKING'S BROTHEL SERIES

This time we're a little early with a picture. You're looking at number 28 in Dug Picking's Brothel Series. This is Penny's Cozy Corner Bar. (Irish's Combination Bar hasn't been seen in these pages yet, but one day soon we'll do a catch up!)

Penny's is a super bottle and from what I hear, quite a place in Winnemucca, Nevada; however, we'll do our concentrating on the bottle talk. Our buxom lass Penny is seen in blue short shorts, a red and white striped top, and gray boots. Okay, now, who noticed the boots?

The picture doesn't do this one justice at all since you can't really see that larger than life penny behind Penny. The artists have done a most marvelous version of a true one cent piece! (I can't believe I said that.)

Next on the agenda for 1986 is the New Chicken Ranch and then the Pussy-cat Saloon. One last note, Moonlight Ranch is now selling for \$450.00!!





MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay

Almost every mini beer collector has at least one Acme bottle. It seems, for some varieties at least, that they were produced in quite large quantities, and even today they continue to show up at flea markets all over the U.S. However, certain Acme minis are less common and hence more desirable. Do you know the key differences?

The 4 1/4 inch Acme 'Lager' is one of the less common ones. It is, of course, the earliest, being from the 1933-36 period... wow! 50 years old! The colors on the decal label are extremely bright and handsome. Of the Acme varieties, it's clearly my favorite. On this version the brewery name is shown as 'California Brewing Association' while all of the others say Acme Breweries or Acme Brewing Co.



A subtle difference is found on the stubby or three inch versions; under the word Acme it says 'non-fattening' on some varieties. These versions have a different style of cap. Two non-fattening types exist; one is from San Francisco (CA-6) and one is from Los Angeles (CA-8). The non-fattening bottles are less plentiful and hence again more desirable than their counterparts CA-7 and CA-9. Many collectors overlook this subtle difference.



When 'no-deposit, no-return' glass hit the marketplace in the 1947-50 period, the Muth Company produced Acme 'one-way's for both Los Angeles CA-21 and San Francisco CA-22. These bottles had foil paper labels. Labels in good condition are very attractive; however, they flake and turn dull from handling fairly easily.

During the same period, the Owen Corning Glass Co. produced what is perhaps the most elusive of the Acme's, the Acme Gold Label mini (CA-18). It is also a 'no-deposit, no return' or '1-way' bottle that was apparently produced in very small quantities and hence is highly sought after by beer collectors.



The paper label varieties, made by Bill's, may be found in 3 in., 4 in. and 4 1/4 in. sizes. These are the newest ones; they were made in the 1950's.

Well, I hope this served to tune-up your Acme I. Q. 'Til next time...

--Bob Kay--



Wild Turkey

You're looking at the newest of the Wild Turkey bottles. This should be available now. It's the ninth miniature to be issued; however, it's numbered as number ten. All of the remaining items to complete the twelve in the action series will be released this year. This bottle, Wild Turkey and Coyote, will be followed by Wild Turkey and Falcon and Wild Turkey and Skunks. The Two Fighting Wild Turkeys, numbered three in the series, will also be issued prior to the end of year holidays. It's quite a series and we'll be showing you the others as they are issued during the year.



**"Wild Turkey and Coyote." Wild Turkey's
February 1986 "Action" release.**

A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque

Here is an ultra regional miniature which was produced before World War II and sold exclusively to tourists in Carcassonne, the best preserved, ancient walled city in the south of France. Like many miniatures in all our collections, it is a wonder it has survived in good condition after all these years.

CARCASSONNE is the largest fortified city in all of Europe, and looking at it from a distance one thinks of Disneyland. There is an interesting story on how the city acquired its name.

CHARLEMAGNE besieged the city for five years in the ninth century and was eventually outwitted, according to legend, by Madame Carcasse. This clever townswoman was in charge of feeding the troops defending the city, and they were now running out of food. It meant the defenders would have to

surrender in a few days and probably face a massacre. Wily Madame Carcasse took the town's last remaining pig, forced-fed it with the last remaining rations of corn until its belly burst open, and then threw it over the ramparts.

The dead pig was brought to Charlemagne. Seeing the belly overstuffed with corn, he reached the conclusion that the defenders were still well stocked and their spirits unbroken. Discouraged, Charlemagne lifted the siege and retreated. Immediately, Madame Carcasse blew her trumpet and the jubilant townspeople cried out "Carcasse sonne" - (Carcasse blows her horn). It's an amusing tale on how the city acquired its name - it's romantic, and who cares if it turns out to be a fairy tale?



Deep in southern France the legendary walled city of Carcassonne rises above golden fields of grain

The brand name on this label is LA MICHELINE. Since saints and spirits are cut from the same cloth, it must be a reference to St. Michel - probably the patron saint of the city. The other printing on the label reads as follows: Old Exquisite Liqueur of the City of Carcassonne. QUEEN OF LIQUEURS.

On second thought, this brand name is far preferable to any name derived from Madame Carcasse's legend.

--Joseph Levesque--
The Cognac Newsletter



German Whisky

by Frank N. Gerlach



Here I am again. I think maybe some collector friends have been waiting for some news from me; however, as you know, miniature bottle collecting is a hobby of mine...not a profession. First comes the family and my work. But in this issue I want to show you once more some nice and old bottles. I've picked these up in the last couple of years, mostly from other collectors.

First is a Whisky from Poland. Yes, also in Eastern Europe they make the whisky. This square, 11.6 cm tall miniature has a yellow label with black letters on it. It comes from the govern-

ment distillery, POLMOS, which also makes many different kinds of vodka. This whisky though is a blend of rye and malt whisky. No proof nor age is given on the label.

The second bottle comes from West Berlin, the Barenliköre KG. It's a real German product at 43% vol. or 86 US proof. It's a blend from grain, malt and old Scottish whisky. The bottle is 13 cm high and has a grey label with four medals. I don't know if they got the medals for their whisky because today they produce only liqueurs.

The next bottle is a 9.7 cm tall Italian Whisky. Good Night is the name. I must also say "good night" on this one because on the yellow label you can't read anything. You can see only a Scotsman and the Whisky 79.

The 9 cm tall Red Jacket Whisky is a blended Italian production from Girolamo Luxardo. It has only 80 US proof and the white label shows a nice, colorful fox hunting scene.

In the last two bottles we stop with the foreign whiskies and go back to Scotland. Here I have a nice 10 cm tall

flat Old King Cole Liqueur Scotch Whisky. The white label shows only a Scottish symbol. It's distilled and bottled from the International Trade, Finance & Export Co., Ltd., Glasgow. Does anyone know about this company?

Last we come to a real treasure from the past. The Pigeon Blend comes from Samuel Dow Ltd. Glasgow. It's the old Highland Whisky in an old bottle and they are too proud to say it's Scotch. But it is!

Next time some more interesting bottles. All my best for 1986!



A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod

While visiting Boozeville you probably won't see this well to do couple at the local saloon. They will more than likely be giving a party or attending one in the few fine homes around the town.

The old gentleman could be the mayor. He is certainly a "big shot". Naturally he is made in Germany, stands 4 1/2 inches high with number 3756, is multicolor with a three color cigar: brown, white and gold band. He will hold a very big shot of the best booze.

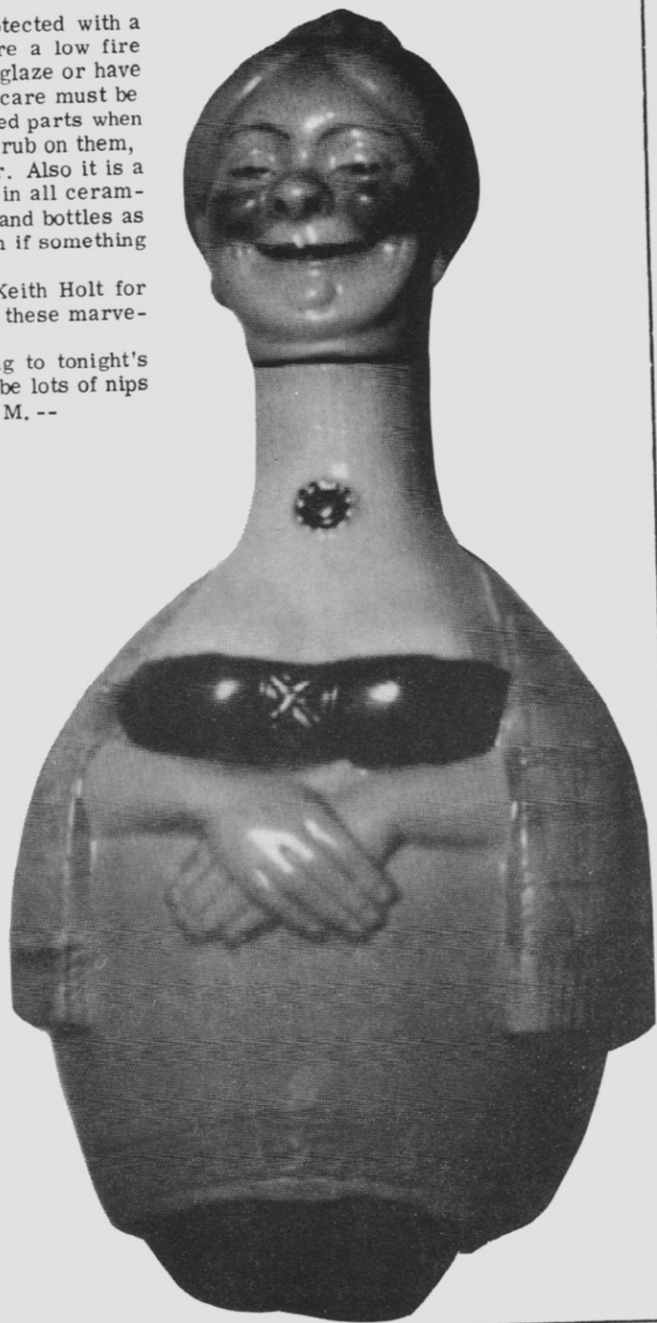


The lady appears to be in top form and probably has put away a few nips herself. She is 5 1/2 inches tall, multicolor, has the crown mark and number 6550. This is a "granny nipper" that is a granny nipper.

These bottles are protected with a shiny glaze but some are a low fire bisque and don't have the glaze or have parts unglazed. Special care must be taken with these unglazed parts when cleaning them. If you scrub on them, it will remove the color. Also it is a good idea to keep corks in all ceramics and stoneware jugs and bottles as this helps protect the rim if something should fall on them.

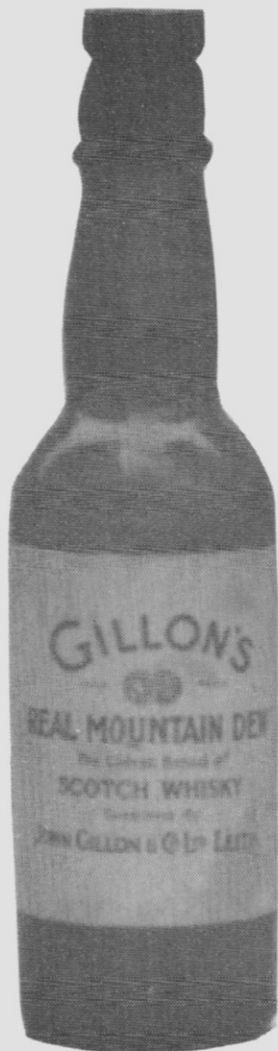
My thanks again to Keith Holt for sending in the photo of these marvelous bottles.

It's time to get going to tonight's party where there will be lots of nips and big shots. --L. M. --



SCOTCH For The Connoisseur

by Roy Holden



A New Year arrives once again and I'm just sorry to say that the article for the end of 1985 got lost somewhere across the Atlantic. Hope the seven bottles which are featured in this issue make up for them.

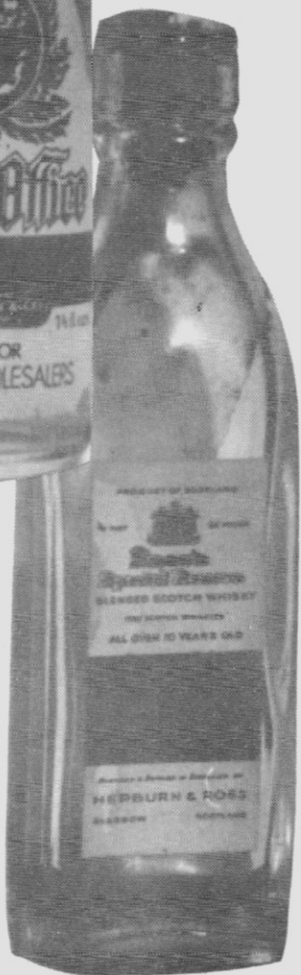
We begin with Murphy's (yes, Irish) Scotch again. . . you will remember other bottles from Ireland I've featured before. This particular bottle was sold in the 1960's by Patrick Murphy & Son Ltd. in Ballymena. It's rarely seen today. I picked this one up in Italy!

Our second bottle, Gillons Real Mountain Dew was mentioned in an article early last year when I featured other bottles from Gillons. This particular bottle is a real beauty from the 1930's and is one I pride in my collection. In fact I've never seen another one anywhere.

V. O., the third bottle shown, is characteristic of Scotch miniatures which are found in Italy. This one is far from easy to find today, though. Luxardo, the famous Italian liqueur maker, were responsible for its release. This one is a good bottle to grace any collection.

Names of Scotch seem to cover all walks of life and our fourth bottle, Private Office, is no exception. It was issued in the 1960's by Craig, Gordon & Co. of Glasgow. It was also exported to Australia where it was marketed by Turalda Wholesalers Ltd. Again, this is a bottle which seems to have disappeared and is only found in collections today.

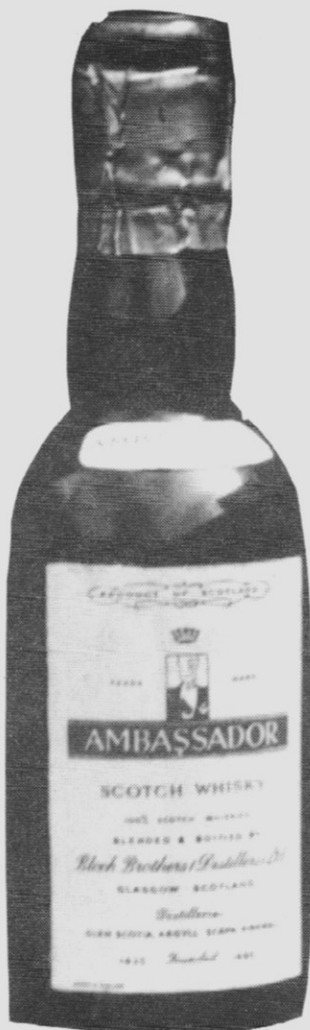
Hepburn & Ross have been great ambassadors for our hobby but few collectors will have the bottle featured here. Ross's Special Reserve I picked up myself in probably what was one of the best buys of collections I have ever had. It is a 1930's bottle of great value today to any collector.



Our last two bottles might seem common, but if you look more closely at them you will soon see they are from the 1940's. I suppose like myself you will all have many variations of this brand, but the ones like these, produced by Black Brothers are real collectors' pieces.

Well, that's the first article for 1986 and I hope to be back in the Spring with more Scotch to show you.

--R. H. --



MINI WORLD

When prohibition ended, some of the California wineries produced a great many minis. A few were done in glass; however, the majority were ceramic jugs as seen here. Alta, Gallo, Lushus, Meier's and Embros all used these types of bottles and they are probably found in almost every collection which includes some old bottles. Two interesting points: the last two mentioned companies were not from California and Gallo officials still swear to this day that they never produced any miniatures. Hmmm.

There's not much to say about these little jugs. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors and unfortunately to most collectors are relegated a very minor position in the collection hierarchy. Remember, they are over fifty years old... half way there to becoming an antique!





Jerry Cohen

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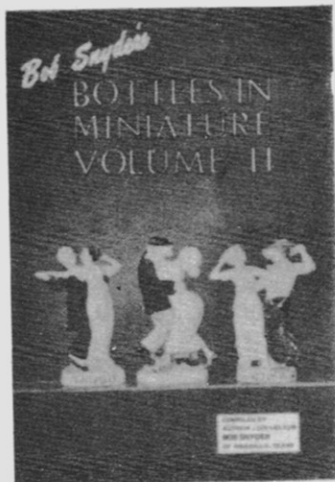
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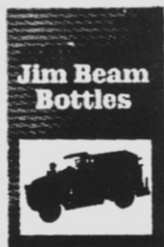
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