

**THE**

VOL. XVI No. II

No. 92 1989

# **MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR**



# MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



## AUCTION MAGAZINE

A Magazine for miniature liquor bottle collectors featuring interesting articles in every issue, combined with a miniature liquor bottle MAIL AUCTION featuring hundreds of bottles from all over the world, including Whiskeys, Rums, Vodkas, Cognacs, Liqueurs, etc.....

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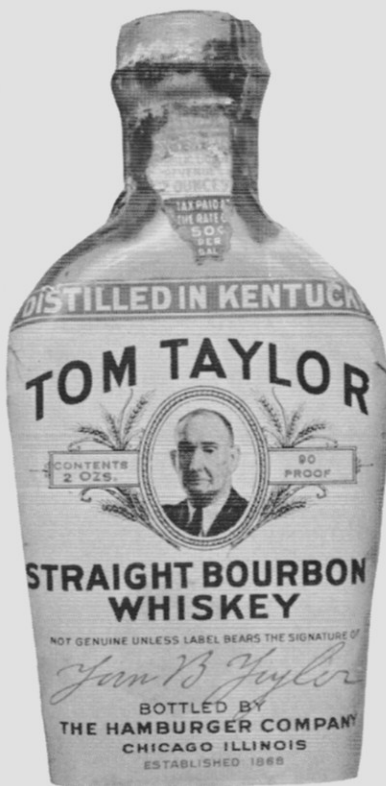
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# Let's Talk

It's summer and everything is heating up...including the world of miniature bottle collecting. There are quite a few new bottles making appearances here, in Europe and definitely in Asia. You'll see as many of them as possible in the next few issues.

Last time I asked if you noticed the difference in the magazine. Well, you certainly can't miss it this time. We've got changes galore for you and there are more coming.

The articles this time are especially good. The scholarship which has gone into Mike Barbakoff's article on The Macallan is certainly worthy of a great deal of your time. And, if you're a scotch collector, this is invaluable.

Mike's article is really a microcosm of this issue. We've got the best of the old and the new and a preview of an extraordinary bottle soon to be issued. This time there's also something we've never done before and that's do a little censoring. However, your imagination will take care of things!

Next time we have the second half of The Macallan article, a look at some hot vodkas by Mario Kyriakidis, a collector who loves gins and house bottles, and the questionnaire for who you are and what you collect. Yes, I'm going to do it all over again. It will have been four years and that's time for a new list.

Finally, coming back to this issue, please take a good look at both The Club Directory and The Dealer Directory. You'll see quite a change. Unfortunately there are fewer clubs, so support the club(s) you belong to.

See you in two months or less.

—DMS—

THE

Vol. XVI No. 2

No. 92 1989

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

Once again we take a look at one of the Nevada brothels or houses of pleasure as they're also known. You can read all about Sherry's on page 18 but our bet is that you'll be more interested in the other bottle which is featured in the article. This second bottle is a special as was the 1985 Mustang. 1990 will see the Valley of the Moon!

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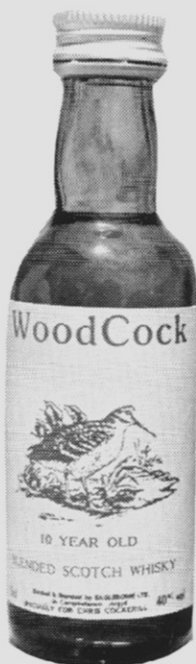
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# WHAT'S NEW Old, Odd, or Unusual



What's new, indeed! In the past few issues we've been concentrating on some older or certainly different bottles. So, it's time to get back to a few new issues here in the U.S. and one from a collecting friend in England. Let's begin with that one.

WOODCOCK Blended Scotch Whisky is a special bottle made by Eaglesome Ltd. for collector Chris Cockerill. Chris wanted his own bottle so using part of his own name and part of a family name came up with Woodcock. And the charming little woodcock on the label makes this a most delightful little scotch. If you want one, get in touch with Chris through the Mini Bottle Club in Great Britain.

Next we come to FRISSON. This is the Kiwi Ananas Au Cognac and is just one of several flavors issued by this French company. This one, along with those other flavors, was picked up at the Chicago Show last April. It's a nice clear bottle with a silk screened label.

I have the feeling that all the Frisson bottles were brought in as samples as no importer is listed on the bottle.

Something else which originally came from France is CHALFONTE V.S.O.P. Grande Fine Cognac. This is a most interesting bottle. It popped up quite a few months ago and is available again, if you're lucky. It isn't actually sold in stores. It's available only when you buy a 750ml



size of Chambord. It was a giveaway when you bought the large bottle and was included so that you could make a special drink...obviously Chambord and Cognac. The other interesting item about this bottle is that it was bottled by Louvre Imports in Auburndale, Florida, and Philadelphia, PA. How many cognacs are shipped to the U.S. in bluk and then bottled here? I can't think of any others, can you?

Now I'm one of those strange collectors who likes to find grain alcohol bottles (never was satisfied with just Everclear). It was quite a delight to find SUNSET Grain Alcohol (190 proof) in the midwest recently. I'd love to know if this company has done other minis because (according to its label) it states that it's "America's finest since 1894". I mean, if you've been around for almost one hundred years, you've got to have done something!?

Our last two bottles are from foreign climes once again. The first is another one from France. Where else could LE VODKA be from? It's an east coast import which has turned up in Maryland and New York. It's definitely one of the cleanest looking bottles ever produced. (Another new vodka to look for is Icy. Unfortunately it's in a plastic bottle.)

The final bottle comes the longest distance. This is the short MEAKIN'S Vodka, distilled and bottled by Mohan Meakin of Nairobi, Kenya. This company has been around since 1855 and this bottle looks as if it were practically then. Note if you can how the top of the bottle sort of lists to starboard. This was part of a set which also contained gin, brandy, and rum. Who can say, maybe there were others.

We'll be back with other new bottles next time.

—D.M.S.



# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



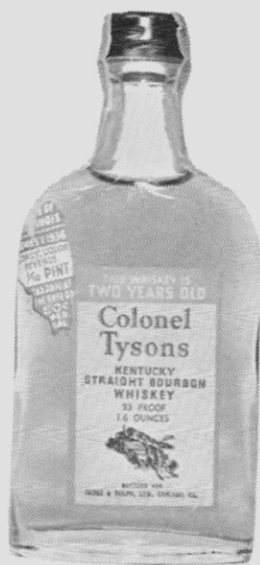
In this article I would like to feature a pair of seldom seen bourbons from western Kentucky, plus seven flats from the city of Chicago, including another great looking bottle from Lionel. I especially like whiskeys with colorful labels and bottle shapes which are unusual. The first three I have chosen to show would certainly fit this category. I just acquired the Lionel bottle without knowing what it was, which makes it a real irony. It is virtually unknown and I would place it in the same class as the Buccaneer which is number one on my want list and has eluded me for a number of years. Anyway, enough said, let's get to the bottles.

Bottle number one is King Leo St.

Kentucky Borbon Whiskey Bottled by Friedman, Keiler & Co. of Paducah, KY. It is 100 proof, 9 months old, has a tan label printed in brown and orange and has a 1934 Illinois tax stamp. The next bottle is Crescent Club Straight Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey also from Friedman, Keiler & Co. It is 90 proof, 6 months old, has an orange label printed in black, white and gold and has a 1934 Illinois Tax stamp. This unique bottle style is repeated in Old Rose Brand Whiskey Bottled by Old Rose Distilling Co., Chicago, IL. It is 90 proof, four years old, has a midnight blue label printed in white, red and gold and has a 1934 Illinois tax stamp.

Bottle number four is 1776 Brand Straight Kentucky Whiskey Prepared by Lionel Distilled Products Inc. Chicago, IL. It is 100 proof and has a blue and white label printed in black with a full colored Minute Man. Moving along we come to Twentieth Century Straight Whiskey Bottled by Old Rose Distilling Co., Chicago, IL. It is 90 proof, less than one month old, has a white label printed in blue, red and gold and has a 1934 Illinois tax stamp. Next we have Billy Caldwell Bourbon Straight Whiskey Bottled by Valley Springs Distillery Inc., Chicago, IL. It is 93 proof, six months old, has a white label printed in blue and a 1937 Illinois tax stamp.





The last three bottles were bottled for Judge & Dolph Ltd., Chicago, IL by Paramount Distilling Corp. and all have 1936 Illinois tax stamps. The first two are Colonel Tysons Kentucky St. Bourbon Whiskey. They are 93 proof, 18 months and two years old respectively and have tan labels printed in orange and black. The last bottle is Claycross Bourbon Whiskey.

It is 90 proof, 6 months old and has a black label printed in gold, red and white.

Finally, I am still amazed by the terrific looking bottles produced during the 1930's. It is the possibility of acquiring more of these that keeps me very active in the hobby.

As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me.

Unitl next time ....M E L O....



# SMALL TALK

From **A. Hardy and Co.** comes the new Captain Junior. This marvelous crystal piece should be in selected stores here in the U.S. in September. It is called "Junior" as it is the companion piece to the 750ml crystal bottle issued a few years ago. Captain Junior contains 100ml of Noce d'Or Cognac thus we have an item of fine hand cut crystal containing an equally fine cognac!



# CANADIAN CONNECTION

by TERRY KRAMER

Hello again from North of the 49th. In this article I'll feature something old, something hard to obtain, and one more mini just for the fun of it! All are Canadian whiskies, so you see, they do have something in common.

To start off, I'll feature the one that is old, maybe not that old, but older than the other three whiskies. It is the Park Lane Canadian Whisky by Corby Distilleries. It is the only bottle of the four that isn't plastic. It contains 1.6 ounces and states on the label "this is a **true** Canadian whisky distilled aged and bottled under Canadian Government supervision. "I wonder what a "non true Canadian whiskey" is? This miniature has a Canada excise stamp over the cap which is dated 1970.

Next is the mini which fits into the "something new" category. It is the Crown Canadian rye whisky by Arctica Distilling Corp. of Vancouver, B.C. It is a brown plastic bottle and contains 40% alc./vol. This mini is currently available in Ontario, and from what I can tell is in no other provinces at this time.





In the "something hard to obtain" category, comes Potters Special Old Canadian Whisky. It again comes in a 50ml brown plastic bottle and is 6 years old. What makes it hard to obtain is that the only way I know of getting one is by purchasing a 750ml bottle of Potter's Vodka, which has this miniature attached to it. Not only that, I had to go to a neighboring province to get it, as it is not available here in Saskatchewan. If this mini is available somewhere else without having to buy the large bottle of vodka, I'll be disappointed. Oh, if you are ever in the neighborhood, stop in for a vodka martini or maybe a screw driver or bloody mary as I have lots of vodka in stock!

The last mini is Kingsway Canadian Whisky. It is produced by the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation. It again comes in 50ml plastic bottles and is 40% alc./vol. At some future time I will do an article on the N.L.C. which features its logo on the top of the Kingsway label. It is the only Liquor Corp. of the ten provinces which has its own bottling plant that does miniatures.

Until next time with more Canadian minis.

—T.K.

# Whiskey Heritage

by  
GEORGE JINKENS

The three bottles I'm showing this time are all pre-prohibition ones. The first is BOCKHORST'S SPECIAL. This originally contained hand made sour mash whisky (note-no "e") and was produced by Gerhard Bockhorst who was the proprietor at 7th & Walnut St., in Louisville, KY.

The second bottle has a marvelous label and it's HARVESTER BOURBON. Here the item to note is that the work whiskey (no matter how it's spelled), does not appear on the label. What does appear is that this was a 1½ oz. blend produced by the J.P. Kissinger Co., of Milwaukee.

The final pre-pro is OLD DOC PEPPER which was made by (you guessed it) DR. JAMES PEPPER. This Dr. Pepper had himself incorporated in Frankfort, KY and the bottle itself is ¾ pt. of blended whiskey. Please note that this Dr. Pepper gave "The Right Prescription"!

See you next time.

—G.J.

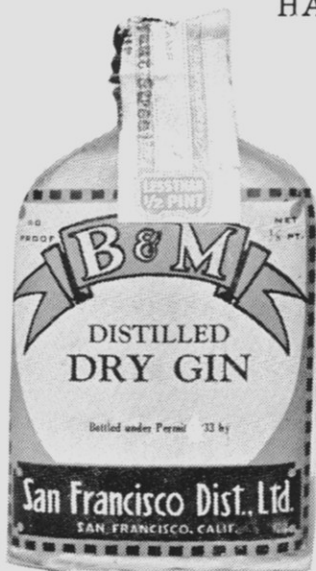






# MINI by WORLD

HARRY FORD, JR.

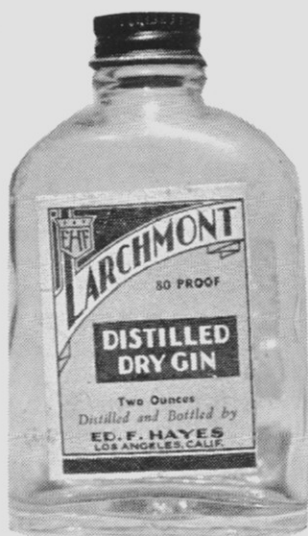


My wife Caraleen and I have been collecting all different types of bottles for nearly twenty years now. Having spent most of our lives in California, we are always on the lookout for interesting California bottles. You will see some of our whiskeys in the new book to be published by Brisco Publications, **101 Rare Whiskey Flasks**.

This is the first of two articles on rare California (and Arizona) flask gins. All pictures are nearly full size in order that you can read the front label. None of these bottles have any back labels, but there is another fact which is even more interesting. You may also notice that many of the bottles do not have tax stamps. They did not come off; they were never there. In California after prohibition many miniatures were bottled "under Permit" in the 11th Permissive District.

Let's let the bottles speak for themselves. The first beauty is B&M.





The tax strip has an address of 1030 Grant Street which today is right on the edge of Chinatown in San Francisco. Next we have CLOVERLEAF which has just part of a California tax stamp. How many gins have you seen from Phoenix or Tucson, Arizona? This is my only one. DIXON'S MIDGET is another beauty from San Francisco. The Dixon Liquor & Wine Co., also produced a rum with a similar label and the Wilshire's Midget Whiskey. GILPIN Brand contained gin at a strong 95 proof and it also came in a decanter bottle. LARCHMONT has a California two ounce tax stamp dated 9/18/35. Finally, LOU BELLE was bottled for the Sontag Drug Store Chain which also produced such great whiskeys as Cedar Cliff, Rock Ridge and Square Rigger.

See you next time for more old gins.

— H.F.

## DUG PICKING'S BROTHEL SERIES

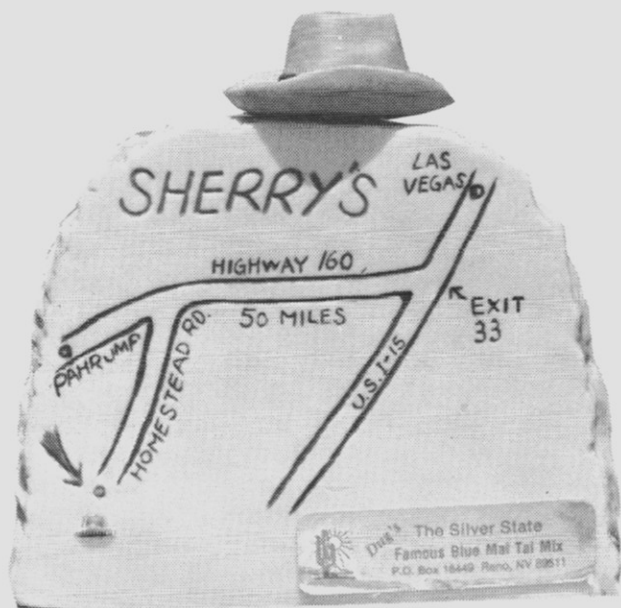
You've already seen the bottle on the front cover but you certainly haven't seen the other bottle shown here (unless you're one of the lucky few to already have it). This bottle is the Battle Mountain bottle and is not part of the regular series. This was a customer specialty with only 500 pieces produced.

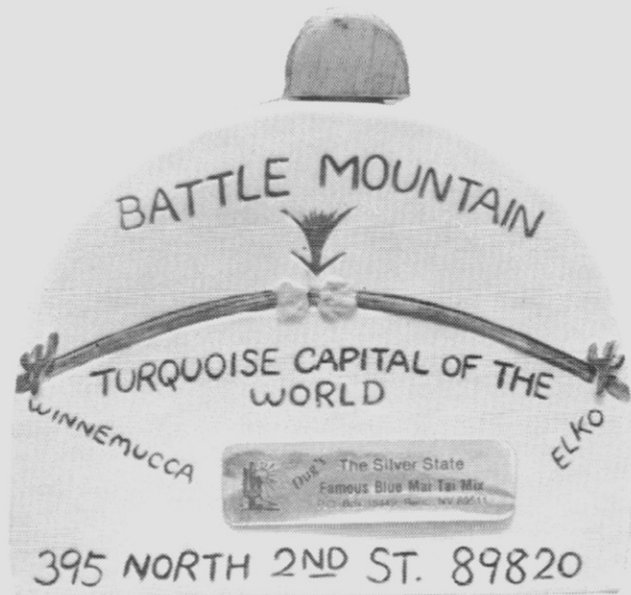
Okay, you've definitely noticed the little "censored" sign. Let's just say that there might be some of you who wouldn't appreciate how forthright this comely lass is. The lady who is immortalized here is the owner of both the Calico Club and the Desert Club in Battle Mountain. This porcelain bottle is a ceramic recreation of what she actually looks like and was taken from a painting which hangs in one of the bars. To see what

she "really looks like", you'll have to buy the bottle. Let me just say that there has never been a bottle like it in its quest for anatomical authenticity.

We thought you might also enjoy seeing what the backs of these bottles look like. Below is the reverse of the bottle seen on the front cover. Note that the name is spelled one way on the front of the bottle and a different way on the back. These are the little errors that drive people crazy but give us collectors interesting oddities.

These are the only two bottles which Dug Picking will issue this year. The Sherri's you'll be able to find for a few months until it disappears. The Battle Bountain bottle, if you don't already have, will be a more difficult proposition. but try, it's worth it!





# SCOTCH

by

MIKE BARBAKOFF



The Macallon is generally regarded as one of the finest, if not the finest, of all the Speyside malts. It was one of the first licensed distilleries, becoming legal in 1824. The distillery was bought in 1892 by the Kemp family, who still control it today, and named Macallon-Glenlivet. The Glenlivet suffix has since been dropped. Macallon stands on its own.

The stills of Macallon are particularly small, apparently due to the size of the door of the original coppersmith's workshop. The Macallon is also distinguished by the fact that it is only matured in sherry casks, with a strong preference for those previously used for dry Oloroso sherry.

The taste of Macallon is excellent at all ages. Full bottles generally available in the UK are at 10, 18 (marked by the year of distillation) and 25 years old. The 12 year old is the standard export bottling. The 25 year old is possibly the Queen of Speyside malt whiskies, but it is expensive. A special Royal Wedding bottling was produced on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. These can now occasionally be picked up in auction at Sotheby's! Special bottlings of the 1938 and 1950 were produced and now fetch very high collector prices indeed. There was a 50 year old bottling that now brings auction prices of around \$2500 a bottle, and the special 60 year old



(only about a dozen produced) went at original auction for something like \$8000 each.

The Macallan has also had quite a rich history regarding miniatures. The first minis appeared in the fifties, bottled by Gordon & Macphail. At this time it was called Macallan-Glenlivet.

The earliest bottling is shown in figure 1 and is marked "Distilled in

1937". There are only two known survivors of this one. It was shortly followed by the "15 years old) at 70 and 100 proof (fig. 2 & 3). Then came two "no age" bottlings also at 70 and 100 proof (fig. 4 & 5). Gordon & Macphail also did two bottlings at 43 GL for Italy (fig. 6 & 7). One of these was for the Turin based importer, the other was for Donini of Milan.

The decision to market the whisky as The Macallan as opposed to Macallan-Glenlivet did not cause a departure from Gordon & Macphail who continued to bottle at 10 and 12 years old at both 70 and 100 proof (fig. 5-15). Eventually, the "formal" Gordon & Macphail association was dropped from the labels with a 10 year old 70 proof/40% transitional strength marking (fig. 16) followed by a 57% (fig. 18) where the original proof marking has been blacked out, and a straight-forward 40% (fig. 17). Figure 19 shows what was (probably) the last of the flasks with a 43% 12 year old.







Some early 12 year old TRC's were produced at 75 proof (for Hong Kong-fig. 20), 80 proof (fig. 21) and a 75 proof 43% for Italy (fig. 22). Around this time an odd 16 year old (fig. 23) was produced for the UK market. Also, one of the rare casks to come into the hands of excellent merchant of fine malts, William Cadenhead, yielded an 18 year old at 80 proof (fig. 24).

(NOTE: Part II of The Macallan Story will appear in #93. There are still 30+ variations to be shown.)



# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some very interesting bottles from Nikka. They are all Whiskies: Super Nikka, Nikka G&G Black and Clear. These three were released to commemorate the receiving of the Blue Ribbon Prize by the Odakyu Electric Railway train called the Romance-car Super Express 10000. This train runs from Shinjuku (Tokyo) to Hakone-yumoto (Kanagawa).

Japan Railfun Club awards the Blue Ribbon Prize once each year to the train with the best performance

and design. It is selected by the vote of the club members from among new cars which run during the past year.

The three bottles were available on October 1, 1988, and only in the Romance-car. The three labels are each slightly different even though they are in the same color. The train is painted red and white with also blue lines and golden and red letters on the label. They are all 50ml contents with 43% alcohol.

I hope you've enjoyed seeing these rare and interesting bottles.



Jerry Cohen

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**Miniature Bottle Club of Southern  
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**Northwest Mini Club of Portland:**  
c/o Dorothy Blyth, P.O. Box 6551,  
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**Oregon Miniature Bottle Club:**  
c/o Mr. Wayne Andrus, P.O. Box  
70201, Eugene, OR 97401, phone  
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**Western New York Miniature Liquor  
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**Club Delle Mignonnettes:**  
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Rd., Burradon, Cramlington, North-  
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# MBC

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CLASSIFIEDS: Free to subscribers each issue. One ad limit per subscriber. Please limit your ad to fifty words or less.

**WANTED:** Droz mouse, bird, pelican or bird with fish in mouth; Rynbende 1930's vases; 1930's pressed glass from Mexico and France. Highest prices paid...unbelievably ridiculous sums for ones I don't have! *David M. Spaid, 2916 Briarwood Drive, Torrance, CA 90505 or call (213) 534-4943.*

**MINI BEERS WANTED:** Castle Beers from Rhodesia breweries; Gold Seal micro minis, New Zealand Beers (if they exist), unlisted Taiwan beers, also paying big \$\$\$ for pre-prohibition mini beers. Call or write for generous bid! *John Wyss, #43 Western Hills Estates, Coralville, Iowa 52241 or call (319) 645-2961.*

**WANTED:** Hoffman Mini ceramic bottles. I also have old larger size whiskey and bourbon bottles in mint condition for trade or sale. Looking for mini liquor bottle wood cabinets with the plexiglass doors to buy. Call *George at (415) 664-3250 or write to me at 1770 30th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122*

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**BUY-SELL-TRADE:** Giveaway Bottles. Send for lists. *Lloyd McLeod, 22231 N.E. 58th Street, Vancouver, WA 98682.*

**NO ROOM:** too many bottles. It isn't good for me, but it is good for you. All minis from \$1.00 and up. Send 50¢ and two stamps for my current listing of all bottles for sale. *Mike Maller, 1030 N.E. 162 Terrace, No. Miami Beach, FL 33162.*

**FOR SALE:** Mini bottles-most 1930's and 1940's-whiskeys, rums, scotch, tequilas, etc. Will sell one or all. These are priced right. Send \$1.00 for four page list. Also will buy Giveaways and mini jugs. *Paul Stookey, 3015 W. st. Rt. 571, Troy, OH 45373 or call (513) 698-3392.*

**FOR SALE:** Dug Picking's Brothel bottles: Green Lantern, Kittys, Big Four, Desert Club, Mona Lisa, Jennys \$30 @; Shamrock \$100, Lucky Strike \$40, Conforte's #1 & #2 Mustang Ranch \$75@. 10 different Jim Beam glass mini brothels (full) \$4@; 1974 MBC Male/Female Fox \$25 the pair, also a lot of other old Jim Beam States, Foxes, etc. and Cyrus Noble Bar Scene minis, 5th size animals. Send for list to *Jim's Bottles, E. 11710 16th Ave., Spokane, WA 99206 or call (509) 926-9266.* The shipping is \$2.50 and then \$3.00 for each additional one.

**SELL-TRADE:** Tequilas, Brandys, Liqueurs, and Mescal (worm in bottle) from Old Mexico. Will trade for prohibition era and/or unusual bottle designs and shapes. Contact *T.I. Campbell, 834 W. Los Alamos, Tucson, AZ 85704 for details.* Make offer-I'm willing to deal!

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