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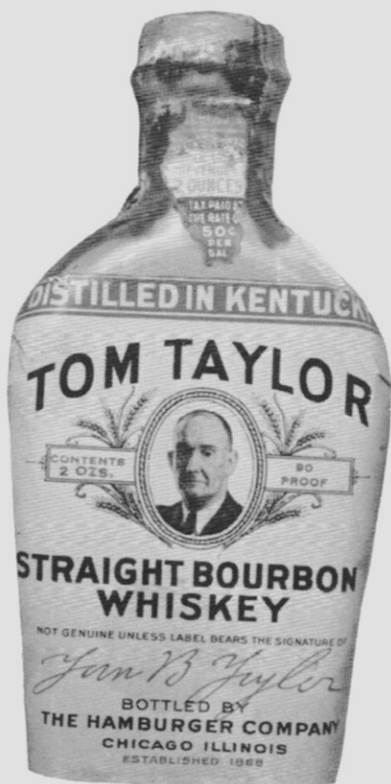


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By David M. Spaid and Harry A. Ford Jr.

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# Let's Talk

Well, you just never do know, do you. Last time I mentioned some specific bottles I'd love to see and Gentleman Jack from Jack Daniels was at the top of the list. So, take a gander at page 13 and the article by Stan Dalen. Indeed, a new Gentleman Jack is now with us and if we're extremely fortunate, the little Blanton's mini will soon be forthcoming.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Blanton's name, it is possibly the best bourbon being sold anywhere at any price. It is a 93 proof decanter type bottle with a "special" cork stopper. If the miniature is a replica of the 750ml, then we'll have the nicest mini for sale from any American company. And that, is something to live up to!

The pictures didn't quite come up to our expectations so you're going to have to wait to see that new Canadian Black Hawk bottle. We'd hoped to have it in the What's New column this issue, but you never know.

As I state every year about this time, be on the lookout as you vacation for both interesting bottles and the names of the shops of where to find them. Naturally this includes travel both in and out of the country.

And, while we're in this area, here's something to contemplate. If you do travel outside of the U.S. and you leave from an airport with a duty free shop, take a good look at what's there. What you see here in the U.S. you may never see anywhere else so you may just have to buy here and carry around with you.

— DMS —

THE

VOL. XVII No. 1  
No. 97 1990

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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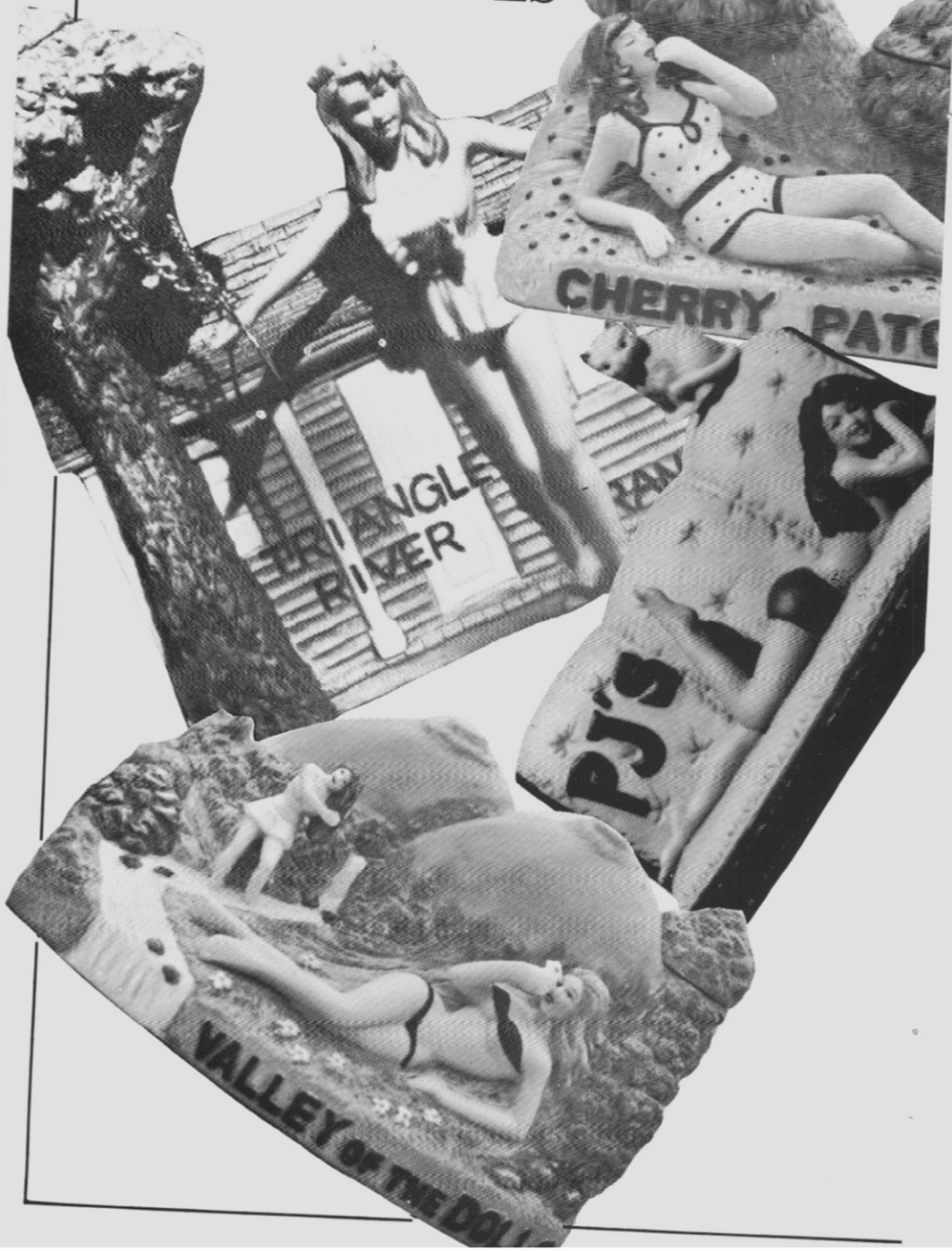
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## Our Cover

The two bottles on the cover this time are but two of the set of four Frapin X.O. Cognac bottles currently being produced by the famed Haviland Company in Limoges, France. The set is (of course) the jack (knave), queen, king and ace of hearts. And, as you might be able to tell from the cover picture, they actually fit together the same way in which a player "fans" his hand. The 750 ml size of these bottles has been available, now watch for these.

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# WHAT'S NEW Old, Odd, or Unusual



What's new? Well, there are a great many new bottles available, that's what's new. Possibly the best, a new Canadian Whisky sold in Tennessee, we'll save until next time and just whet your appetite this issue.

There are nine bottles this time with some really interesting ones thrown in for good measure. Let's begin with the new Tanqueray Sterling Vodka. This is frosted glass and the same shape as the Tanqueray Gin. It should be available everywhere. The Scoresby is an old familiar name but this new one is in plastic. If you look hard enough, you might be able to find an older one in glass in a taller bottle than is usually seen. Some were produced before the switch to plastic. The third in this group is Beziqve which is a rum liqueur sold in most of

the world, but not here. It is made by Bacardi which should assure worldwide distribution; however, in this case, it does not. Great looking bottle though.

Next we have three plastic tequilas. Now, one hates to be snobbish about all this, but what in the world can you say about three plastic tequilas? They are available. That's it.

The last three bottles are something else. Beginning with the most common one, let's look at Hiram Walker's new Kokomo. The predicted life of this liqueur is so short that if you see it, buy it. The next time it will undoubtedly be gone. Yes, we all love "tropic delights"; however, the nicest thing you can say about this one is that it's a glass bottle with a somewhat colorful label.





The bottle with the ribbon on it is a milk glass liqueur from China. This came out in 1989 and although remarkably good looking suffers from the same problem which most bottles from China have. They leak. And when they leak, they smell. They don't just smell, they reek. Possibly the western palate and taste buds aren't ready for these high proof spirits. If I knew what it was called, I'd tell you.

The last bottle is one of those weird ones that everybody loves to find. It's the type of bottle in each collection that drives other collectors crazy. Could you buy it? No. Can you find it? No. This was a special gin made for the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas. It was given away at their New Year's Eve party on December 31, 1985. Gin collectors, eat your heart out!

# A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Today we are welcoming a new-comer to Boozeville. He just arrived here from the old country and can't speak English yet. He did know the name on the bottle, however - Old Viskey. He wears wooden shoes and is always in a good mood when there is plenty of whisky around.

This bottle is one of the harder ones to find, but then again, aren't they all? It is 10 inches tall and all blue in color. It would appear to have a music box in the base but does not. The base is simply a large base! This fellow looks real short but he is actually sitting down. It just appears that he is standing.

"Vell, vaat you say ve haf a shot of viskey?"

— L.M. —

# For The Connoisseur



Obviously you're familiar with this bottle. Everyone knows that famous Castagnon Armagnac Joan of Arc or Knight on Horseback. Down through the years it's been done in a variety of ways: clear glass, clear glass with gold highlights painted on, black glass, and black glass again with gold highlights painted on. (This doesn't even begin to count the content variations or the imitations such as Venus and Imperial Knight.)

There is a difference with these three bottles though. They are porcelain. Made by the same company which produces the Janneau Eagles and Bastille bottles, these three porcelain pieces are currently available in Hong Kong duty free shops for \$50 each! They are in cobalt blue, gold and white. Hopefully they'll find their way into other markets and with a smaller price tag.

# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature a mixed bag of slightly unusual brands and newer bottles. I think it is fair to say that my favorite bottles are the flats from the 1930's. However, I think it is nice to have a collection of bottles representing all types and eras. Also, some of the newer bottles are fairly rare and will probably be hard to find in coming years.

Anyway, bottle number one is KENNY-MARA Straight Whiskey Distilled and Bottled by The Geo. T.

Stagg Co. Frankfort Ky. for the Kenny-Mara Importers Corp. New York, N.Y. It is 100 proof, 9 months old, has a white label printed in red and black and was made about 1934. Next we have MR. BOURBON Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Mr. Bourbon Deatsville, Nelson County, Kentucky. It is 86 proof, 6 years old, has a white label printed in gold, black and red and was made in 1968.



Bottle number three is ROXY CLUB WHISKEY ZIP Bottled by the Baltimore Liquor Company Baltimore, Maryland. It is seventy proof, has a white label printed in black and red and was made about 1960. This is followed by PRIVATE STOCK BOURBON LIQUEUR Prepared by Granada Wines Inc. and bottled by The Sherwood Distilling Co. Westminster, MD. It is 95 proof, has a light yellow label printed in black and is a New York whiskey (cut with

something to become a liqueur, since New York could not sell miniature whiskey). It was Distributed by Century Liquor Company New York, N.Y. circa 1950.

Bottle number five is OLD DISTILLER Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Distilled and Bottled by Fairfield Distilling Co. Meadowlawn, Jefferson Co., Kentucky. It is 86 proof, 4 years old, has a gold label printed in black, white and red and was made in the early 1960's. The

# melo's minis



same company claims our next bottle, DISTILLER'S BOND, which is BIB 1960-1964 and has a similar colored label.

Moving along, we have ROSEWOOD'S ANNIVERSARY Bourbon Bottled by Rosewood Distilling Co. Meadowlawn, Kentucky. It is 86 proof, 100 months old, has a multi-colored label and was also made about 1960. The last bottle is OLD JOE Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by The Old Joe Distillery Co. Lawrenceburg, Ken-

tucky. It is 86 proof, 4 years old, has a white label printed in gold, black and red and was made about 1960.

Finally my collection has been growing at a snail's pace, which makes me appreciate the few I am able to obtain. I still enjoy the hobby and have not become discouraged by some aspects of it. As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me.

Until next time. . .MELO.

# Collectors' Choice

*By Stan Dalen*



Good News, Bad News, Good News. Jack Daniels recently came out with a new "Rare Tennessee Whiskey", Gentleman Jack.

This is good news because not many new whiskeys are marketed in this country. The bad news is that it is not going to be sold as a mini.

The good news is that they did make a limited number of minis, boxed two of them together in a presentation case and have given them to some liquor store owners as tasting samples. Because I am always hunting the better mini stores, the owners of

my favorite store gave me their sample. They will be remembered in my Will!

In case you are hoping that I am wrong and that the bottle might show up, I would like to point out that neither the bottle nor the label shows the size. And, the Surgeon General's warning is missing from the label. (It is on the 750ml size.)

As a little PS, while I was picking up the set from the store, a liquor salesman told me that a Blanton's mini would be out in July!!

—S.D.—

# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some of the Scotch Whisky miniatures which are available only in Japan.

The EXEC, the first three bottles, was born in cooperation with Cornes & Co. (Japan) and Burn Stewart & Co. (U.K.). Cornes & Co. was the sole agent of the John Begg in Japan; however, Cornes needed an original

brand as John Begg was stopped in production by UDG. EXEC means executive. The Single Malt is from Speyburn Distillery in Speyside. All three bottles, 7 y.o., 12 y.o. Blended and 12 y.o. Single Malt, are 11cm tall in clear glass common bottles and contain 50 ml with 43% alcohol. The label is based on green and white colors.





The next bottle is EDINBURGH. This scotch was blended and bottled by Invergordon Distillery for the Pokka Corporation, the famous food and drink maker in Nagoya, Japan. It is 11cm tall and contains the normal 50 ml at 43% alcohol.

The last two bottles, The FAMOUS GROUSE Old Reserve 10 to 20 y.o. and Fine Old Reserve 12 to 30 y.o. are

very interesting bottles. They have extremely colorful and gentle labels in pink, red, green and gold. Old Reserve has a light green cap while the other one is in red. These bottles are also normal clear glass, 11cm tall at 43% alcohol.

Until next time. . . .

— T.S. —



# CANADIAN CONNECTION



by TERRY KRAMER

Hello again. I would like to share with you a bit of information on some Canadian Whiskies.

I'll start with the Gold Ribbon De Luxe which is a product of the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, which was the topic of my last article. This whisky has been available for about a year now but only in Newfoundland. It is a plastic clear bottle and is 40% alc./vol.

The next mini is the Potter's Crown Canadian Whisky. Again a plastic bottle is used and the alc./vol. is 40%. This mini is currently being sold in Alberta and is produced by Potter's Distillers Ltd. of Langley B.C. and St.Catherines, Ontario.

The third mini is the Highwood Canadian Rye Whisky. It is produced by Highwood Distillers of Highriver, Alberta. This mini was obtained by buying a 26 ounce of White Lightning Vodka which is also made by High-





wood Distillers, and has the mini of rye attached to the neck of it. The mini of the vodka is also available in the same way by buying the large bottle of the whisky. Both the rye and vodka are in plastic bottles and the whisky has an alcohol content of 40%. It is rumoured that both of these minis will be available soon on their own without being the sample on the larger bottles.

The last mini, Canadian Host, is not a product of Canada. This whisky is distilled and blended in Canada, then sent to the United States for bottling. It is imported by Barton Imports of Chicago, IL. Again this mini is in a plastic bottle and the label states that the alc./vol. is 40% or 80 proof.

I hope that you've enjoyed this bit of information about these new Canadian whiskies. Until next time.

— T.K. —

# SMALL TALK

by

Harry Ford, Jr.



This is my third article on rare or unusual gins. The first beauty is a California bottle, MONTECITO, from Imperial Distillers of Los Angeles. For those of you unfamiliar with California, Montecito is an extremely wealthy community near Santa Barbara, and this brand name appears to take advantage of its prestige. The label is in green, silver and black

foil whereas the whiskey is in red foil (101 Rare Whiskey, #48).

Next is another California rarity. This SILVER LINING apparently refers to the inside of the pictured top hat. In MBC No. 93 you will see a completely different Silver Lining which was also bottled for Consolidated Wine and Spirit of Los Angeles.



Number three is the wonderfully embossed and labeled OLD MOUNTAINEER (embossed on sides, picture on back, and mountain shape all around the bottle). The back label shows this was bottled by the Philip Blum Co. of Chicago (Jim Beam is the newer name) "Dependable Since 1889". This same bottle is used for a 90 proof bourbon whiskey.



Those of you familiar with the DUFFY'S TAVERN 42 proof Diluted Blended Whiskey, will delight in this equally hard to find (same strength) gin version. This is a product of the Parnell Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The portrait of the DIXIE KING graces the label of this next gem. The Dixie King himself might have been

# SMALL TALK



Robert E. Lee but we'd have to ask the Chesapeake Distilling and Bottling Co. of Baltimore, MD. This rare one is distilled from "cane products" which is certainly unusual.

Finally, I'm salivating over the formally attired PENGUIN Gin. The back label indicates an unusual 90.9 proof, distilled from 100% Grain Neutral Spirits. The label is green, black and white. A purple and white



Maryland tax stamp indicates this bottle did not travel far from Baltimore where it was distilled and bottled. Crosse and Blackwell also bottled a great rye, The Green Spring Valley Club.

I'm sure you'll agree that this is a great bunch of unusual gins. Guess I'll have to keep on the lookout for more beauties of this caliber.

— H.F. —

# MINI WORLD



La naissance des alcools, des liqueurs, des fruits confits, est fort ancienne. Proche de l'alchimie des origines, leur préparation est toujours entourée d'un petit mystère par le producteur; c'est le "tour de main", la "specialite" qui distingue ses produits de ceux de ses collègues.

Well, if you're still with us, you've probably guessed that the bottles shown here are from France. The above is taken from the beginning of the information sent by the company, Perigord, to publicize its many products. Possibly you could tell from the

picture, but if you can't these are a number of fruit and berry miniatures which are available only in France and one or two other countries.

These are brandy and liqueurs made from strawberries, peaches, cherries, apricots, hazelnuts, walnuts, etc. They are all 30 ml with red, wax-type coverings and labels in black with white lettering. The most special characteristic of these bottles is the way the products taste, not look. If you're going to France or have a friend who is, the quest awaits you.

# Glass!



Here for your enjoyment are seven old and quite rare Mexican whiskies. There have been bourbons, ryes, Canadians, Scotches, etc. but there have been few old Mexican bottles shown. Juarez and Waterfill & Frazier are fairly well known, but these bottles are not.

Let's begin with the Luis A. Marin bottle which is shown as Straight Kentucky Bourbon. The company lists a Tijuana, Mexico address but the actual producer was Destileria de Tecate



of B. CFA or Baja California. Also from Tijuana is the Atherton which came from the Tom Downey Foreign Club. So that you don't have to get out the magnifying glass, the front label states: "Unexcelled in Purity and Quality, Exceptional for Medicinal Use. Guaranteed over four years old. Same as the one Distilled by J.M. Atherton & Co."

The 1/10th pint Pure Bourbon (also listed as Aguardiente which is most interesting) is another produced



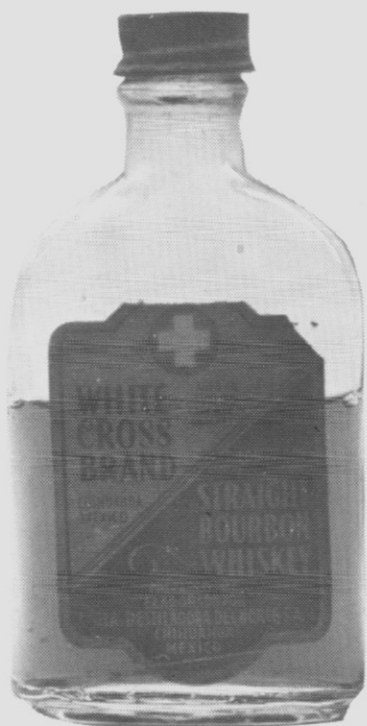


by the Destileria de Tecate. This one was made specifically for the Ben Hur Cafe and it would take a real historian to tell us where that was.

We'll jump now to the only bottle to be exported to the U.S. This is the Habanero Mexican Whiskey. This may indeed be one of the strangest bottles ever seen as it was brought in at 81.8 proof and is a 1.5 oz. bottle, from all of 56 years ago. The Mexican-American Habanero Corporation was located at 22 East 40th Street, New

York City, New York. The back label states: Established 1884. Aged in wood over eleven years. Elaborated in 1922 from old Spanish sherry and muscatel wines of vintage 1916 and aguardiente (pure sugar cane juice). Fabricated by Juan Piza y Cia. Sucs. Mexico City, Mexico. Like to taste that one?

The other Habanero is S. P. which stands for Special Prosses (sic). It's a bourbon type, four years old and made by Productos Pedrero S. P. of



Monterrey (sic). Obviously a 1930's bottle or possibly earlier.

The last two bottles are still equally interesting. The White Cross Brand in a Straight Bourbon Whiskey from Cia Destiladora del Norte of Chihuahua, Mexico. Now if you thought the 81.8 proof on the Habanero was bizarre, this bottle contains 3/11 pint or .043 litre. The white cross is centered in the middle of a red circle.

Our final bottle is Donlevy Bourbon which might possibly be slightly

more well known than these others. It's 100 proof and "guaranteed to be absolutely pure". The slogan would seem to be "The Breath of Spring" which is at the bottom of the barrel (no pun intended). It's another product of Destileria de Tecate just in case the bottle shape seemed familiar.

Hopefully we'll be able to take another visit south of the border soon.

— DMS —



# MINIATURE BEERS

by

Scott P. Spaid



Greetings after a long hiatus. I've been too busy with school, jobs and life to do much with my beer collection; however, I thought it was about time to let many of you know I'm still around. . .and interested!

My dad got the set pictured here in Japan recently. For those of you who love the Coors ceramics in your collection, this set is a natural. The little stein or mug on the left is for toothpicks while the other two pieces are

the standard salt and pepper. They all perch on a wooden stand that comes with the set.

Just so you don't need a magnifying glass to see what the three beers are, from left to right: Asahi Lager, Sapporo Lager, and Yebisu Lager. I've tried the first two and they're great beers, but the Yebisu is a new one on me. Wonder if there are any other sets like this in Japan?

—S.P.S.—



Jerry Cohen

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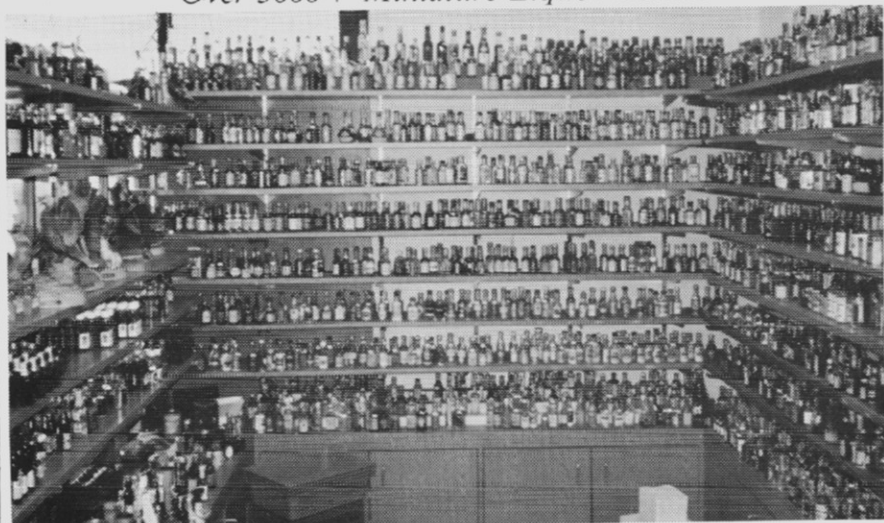
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**BEERS WANTED:** I now collect only mini beers. I'm looking for: "Gold Seal" micros, Guinness variations, Manru Lager, Nectar, Primo 3", pre-pro's, Old Dutch Beer & Ale (decal), One Way Ale, and beers from: New Zealand, Mexico, Sweden, Denmark, Rhodesia, Italy (Alpa) and Microminis. All letters answered. John Wyss, #43 Western Hills Estates, Coralville, IA 52241 or call (319) 645-2961.

**PRESENTING:** The 'mini' manager. The ultimate way to track minis using your IBM PC/XT/AT or 100% compatible. Call or write for more info to: Dennis Naiberg, 1532 Apollo Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866-3401 or call (217) 893-0905.

**FOR SALE:** A special scotch—Teacher's Crystal in a tall, cylindrical bottle. Yes, it really is in crystal which is produced in Turkey. The most inexpensive yet beautiful glass bottle you're likely to encounter for a long, long time. See what everyone at the MMBC Chicago show just "had to have". It's an incredibly low \$12.95 ppd. And, if you're looking for an interesting set of cognacs, how about the new Brillet set of five in a wooden box. This is \$35.95 ppd in the U.S. only. More id required for shipping outside the continental U.S. D.M. Spaid, P.O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

**FOR SALE:** Yes, we still have a few left of the Silver State Specialties Royal Flush and What A Catch Mitt. They are \$11.95 each postpaid. There will definitely be a Las Vegas Horseshoe this summer so watch this space for that one...or go to Las Vegas! And, there are a few more of the Hardy Capt. Junior crystall cognac at \$65 ppd. It's expensive, but worth it. When they are all gone soon, you'll regret it if you didn't get one. Chiisai Bin Imports, P.O. Box 90245, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

**FOR SALE:** Miniature bottle collection, figurals and straights, over a thousand (have listing inventoried). Bottles are housed in "custom" made wall wood cabinets with sliding glass doors with locks (4 units). Cabinets finished in fruitwood stain, size 6" in height, 4' in width and 8" in depth. Serious inquiries ONLY please. Will sell only as a collection, price negotiable. Doris or Bob Dellacasa, Richardson, TX, call (214) 235-5618.

**WANTED:** Meier's Figurals. Also, the Taplow Mini Gins. John Decker, 660 Crockett, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

**HAPPY BOTTLE COLLECTING** from BOTTLES & EXTRAS, Box 154, Happy Camp, CA 96039. A monthly magazine featuring a wide range of bottle subjects including miniatures, International news, classified ads, etc. Subscription rates inside the U.S. are 1 year \$16 surface and \$28 via first class.

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# MBC

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