

Billy Winters' Log Cabin

By Garth Ziegenhagen

Perhaps the best known Oregon picnic is a pictorial THE LOG CABIN/ 167 3rd ST/ PORTLAND/ ORE/ BILLY WINTERS PRO. and to many people it is also the most desirable. Two sales in 2006 illustrate the popularity of this flask. One auction sold the flask for \$1,720 counting shipping and fees. Ralph Van Brocklin sold one at the 2006 National Reno Show flask auction he was running for \$1,350. To give you some idea how the prices on this picnic have changed Keith Willis in 1972 listed the price for this picnic in the range of \$80 to \$100. Still this bottle is not my favorite Oregon picnic. Instead my favorite is the MARX BAUMGART/ WHOLESALE/ LIQUORS/ ALBANY, OR because it is the only picnic made outside the

city of Portland and was in business as early as 1878. Since this picnic was made and sold in a much smaller town it is also rarer than the Log Cabin picnic. Only eleven picnics are believed to be embossed from Oregon. The history of each is very interesting.

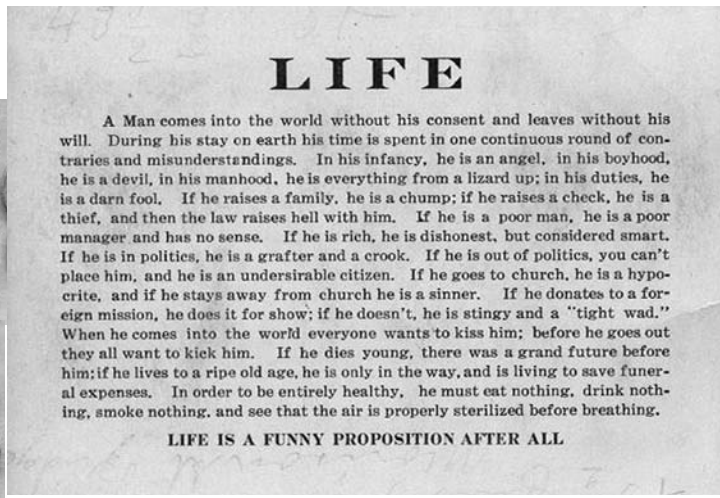
The future owner of the Log Cabin Fred William (Billy) Winters bought a saloon from John Giebisch in 1899 in Portland and called it Old Hut Saloon. (1) But Billy apparently was unsatisfied and sold the saloon in 1902. He had plans for a bigger and better saloon even though his credit rating was only fair for up to \$5,000 according to the 1902 R.G. Dun Mercantile Agency Reference Book. This same book listed 38 saloons on First Street alone and 255 liquor establishments in Portland in 1902.

This brand new Log Cabin of Billy's was opened in record time later in 1902 at 167 Third Street. It was continually operated as a very popular bar by him until prohibition in 1915. One of his ads said: "Fall in and march to Billy Winters a quaint Log Cabin. Old armament and an aquarium to please the eye while Billy administers what is most pleasing to the palate". (2)

Keith Willis in his 1972 book hinted that we need to dedicate this hobby of ours to all the old-time glass houses who made the bottles and to the saloons and liquor store owners, who had them embossed, and to the many, many people who bought, drank and then discarded the bottles.(3) He did not dedicate his book to those who bought , drank and then broke the bottles or those who refused to believe that the written history of the Old West has been improved greatly by bottle collectors and their research.

References:

- (1) Picnics, Coffins, Shoo-Flies by John Thomas 1974
- (2) Whiskey Bottles and Liquor Containers From the Sate of Oregon by John Thomas 1998
- (3) Antiques Whiskey Bottles Washington-Oregon by Keith Willis 1972



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