

The Birmingham, Alabama Bottle Show July, 2012

by Gene Bradberry



Look at all the treasure hunters and treasures

It was another hot July weekend as I travelled to the Birmingham, Ala., Bottle Show. Upon arrival I was met by Show Chairman Tom Lines and he, along with James Smith of the Birmingham club, assisted me in unloading my bottles and setting up as they had previously committed. I was having a little health problem at the time and their assistance was greatly appreciated. It was Friday afternoon and many had already set up. I wandered around looking for bargains and as I did not run upon any real deal, I proceeded to finish setting up my tables.

As always, Lines chairs a very successful and well attended show. This one was no exception. It was held at the Bessemer Civic Center which was a well lighted room with excellent facilities. There were 98 sales tables with 39 paid early admissions and about 400 paid admissions through the door on Saturday.

The displays (yes, there are still diehards who like to display) consisted of an Alabama whiskey display that included contributions from eight different collectors with rarities from small town saloons, all four Motlow flasks, the coveted S. Twelves seal from Mobile and the unique half-pint Easley Saloon historical flask from Huntsville. There was also Perry County, Alabama folk pottery from



the mid 1800s up through contemporary potters. A half-dozen collectors contributed their treasures to this display.

As with most shows, some dealers reported exceptional sales while others said they bought better than they sold. I fit in the latter category.

The premier find of the show was a quart Birmingham Jack Daniels that was offered by one of the founding members of the old Birmingham club that hasn't been active for several decades. Before the show, the dealer offering this prize checked on relative values with Lines so as not sell too cheap. The new owner was quite happy with his purchase and dealer was quite happy with his sale as well....WIN-WIN, as Tom would call that in his southern vernacular.

The winner of this year's free dealer table was Birmingham's Bill Gardner and he was obligated to put the "UGLIEST TROPHY EVER" on display for the remainder of the show. This presentation followed a delicious pizza dinner provided to all dealers by the club on Friday evening. All in all it was a great show with lots of good to great bottles (good advertising, too) as seen in the accompanying photos.

As a side note I found something very interesting as I was unloading. There was a Toyota Prius parked out back of the show with a OBAMA-BIDEN 2012 bumper sticker. In addition to this not being Democrat Country, the most unusual thing about the bumper sticker was that on the rear deck lid just above the Toyota name plate was the car dealer's name, LIMBAUGH! Is this a great country or what!

