



Collinsville Show Well Attended

From: Mike Elling, Sharon, TN

The Metro-East annual Bottle and Jar Association Show and Sale, held Sunday, November 3, 2002, was well attended as cool, rainy weather brought people indoors. The weekend was also scheduled for driving among the brilliant autumn foliage surrounding the area. The show is held at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Illinois, across the river from St. Louis. An estimated 450 people attended.

Over 150 tables were available for collectors to browse. Antique bottles of all kinds, medicines, sodas, inks, fly traps, lightning balls and fire grenades. One vendor set up a table of glass marbles, some dating to the earliest days of American glass making.

Among some of the soda bottle finds were Susan Kaiser, of Holt's Summit, MO, with a 1pt. 8 oz. , Lily Belle, in unusual green glass picturing a nude kneeling holding two calla lilies. The paint is white/red and the bottler is Tru-Ade, of St. Louis, in 1951. For the techie's, this bottle features the terms, "Needle Point Carbonation" and the initials "L-B" at the neck.

Fred Arwood, of Gate City, VA, found a Tumble Brook, a highly prized quart from Hartford, CT, dated 1965. This green glass bottle features a woodland scene in bright yellow/white paint; a clear glass quart from Ashland, WI, Paramount Beverage Company with a mountain on it in blue paint; and a 12 oz red/white, Tops For Thirst. This Grapette Bottling Company item from

DeSoto, MO, shows a large picture of a soda bottle, 2 drink glasses, and an ice bowl over a large rectangle. It is mould dated 1955.

Delbert Roley, of Stewardson, IL, always a lucky finder, got a non-Dr Pepper clockface bottle called Berry's Big Time. The 10 oz clear glass shows a large clockface with the hands set at 2:45. It has a knurled neck, is in red/white, and is a Fairmont, WV, factory of the Owen-Illinois Company dated 1958. Sparkling mint, this New Lexington, Ohio bottle was tagged at \$25.00.

Delbert also found another scarce Knox Glass Mississippi Delta bottle, a Dixieland. This is the one showing a cotton boll, and a ginning factory, in white/green from Jackson, MS. The reverse picture is a road map showing Jackson as the commercial hub of farm and industry in Mississippi, with the terms "Crossroad of the South." Mould dated 1946, the item was only in grade 3 condition and tagged at \$125.00. "By getting this one now, maybe I'll find a mint one next time," Delbert explained.

Milford and Sue Anglin, of Siloam Springs, AK, were set up and selling many scarce ACL sodas. Milford found a very scarce Maumee Valley, with the trademark Indian Princess in Canoe picture, but in red/white clear glass in 12 oz! The bottle is an early 1941, issued by the Cleo-Cola/Whistle bottler in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The color is still complete and the item is by the Glenshaw Glass Co., and coded with the letter "M".

Among the celebrities seen was Mr. Bill Meier, of Breese, IL. He is current manager of the Excel Bottling Company, and grandson of the founder. He is the last remaining bottler of soda products in returnable glass bottles in Illinois. He bottles Ski, the highly successful non-caffeine citrus drink of the Double Cola Company, and several other fruit flavor drinks under his own brand. He currently uses Nesbitt's bottles for marketing these. He attended the show looking for more glass leads in high quantities and had his 3 young children with him. He has the ability to scan a table covered with soda bottles and spotting all of the ones his company has used over the years instantly.

I too found a scarce quart, a NEHI. It is green glass and has the classy "Par-T-Pak" brand name and the flavor "Tom Collins Mixer" in white/red paint. The picture shows a bevy of party tumblers and stem glasses full of mixed drinks indicating this is the product to insure party gaiety. The bottle is in perfect color and glass registration and is dated 1964, by Liberty Glass. The bottler name is "Royal Crown Bottling Co. Main Office, Salisbury, MD." It was tagged at \$40.00

The bargain of the day was a partial case of Bauneq Beq Beverages quarts from Springvale, Maine. These bottles were made by the Reed Glass Works of Rochester, NY, and the action scene is a male snow skier flying far above the pine trees in green/white in 1949. They were tagged at \$8.00 each in near mint condition.