



MY SECOND SHELF

I, Joe Widman, have my main shelf (three tiers) in my family room where I read, watch television and visit. Naturally I look at the bottles many times each day. You probably have seen the shelf and the bottles in a number of articles I have written for this magazine.

I built both shelves about fifty years ago. They are both made with curly maple. I got to know a man at the local lumber company in Kalamazoo. After a few years I talked him into selling me some of the maple that he saved out for Gibson Guitar. They didn't have a standard price for this special lumber, so he sold it to me for the price of prime pine.

My second shelf is in a spare bedroom that I keep my computer in. So I also look at these bottles often. Even at today's prices these bottles would all sell for under five hundred dollars. The bottles on my main shelf would all sell for at least five hundred dollars. The thirteen bottles on this second shelf all have "Unusually Neat" names. They are becoming more and more desirable. You have also seen a few of these in other articles. None of them are easy to find, but a couple can be found for sale occasionally. A couple may be one of a kind. From left to right are:

1. Mammoth Blood Purifier Is the Key (picture of key) to Health.
2. Osage Indian Remedy Makes Sick People Well and Makes Weak People Strong.
3. American Family Bitter Cordial.
4. Doctor Gunn' Eureka Life Cordial the Secret of Medicine Made Pleasant.
5. Pick Me Up the Great Tonic Blood Purifier V.H. Woolrich Palmer Mass.
6. World Renowned Panacea.
7. Makes People New All Over.
8. Herbmystic Natures Greatest Tonic.
9. Mystic Wine of Life Mfg'd By Mystic Wine of Life Co. Bristol, Tenn.
10. The Greatest Medicine in the World.
11. Rev. Newman's Medicines for all Diseases 1361 W. Lake St. Chicago, Ill.
12. Emerson's Sarsaparilla 3 Bottles Guaranteed to Cure Kansas City, MO.
13. Davis' Essence of Life Morning, Noon and Night Tonic.

Editor's note: As *AB&GC* Medicine Chest columnist Joe Widman points out in the article, these bottles on the author's "second shelf" would collectively sell for less than \$500. Yet, they are very interesting and attractive, many being quite rare or difficult to find, as well as historical in their own right.

The field of "quack medicines" that many of these fall into, is without a doubt, increasing in popularity. Let us know if you have any interesting names or quack medicines that you would like to share with the readers.



Bottles 1 through 5



Bottles 5 through 10



Bottles 10 through 13

