

The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors Serving the National Capital



December 2000

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December 20th Meeting

Holiday Party: Our December meeting will be a holiday party and awards banquet. Please come promptly at 7:30 for the banquet.

Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Visitors, family members, and other guests are very welcome.

Meeting Date: We are meeting on Wednesday the 20th in order to accommodate the holiday schedules of several members.

Meeting Place: We will meet at our usual location – the basement of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda.

Show & Tell: No amount of feeding can take the place of show & tell. Please bring along two or three of your favorite collectables. These would not have to be bottles.



Picture at right shows entries from our “collector of the year” contest. The winner will be announced at our December meeting.

Meetings: 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of each month in the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816.

President: Phil Godwin Vice President: Allan Einseln

Secretary: Jim Sears Treasurer: Ken Anderson

Pontil: Jim Sears (email: searsjim@usa.net, PH: 703/243-2409) & Andy Goldfrank (email: amg_sticky@yahoo.com, PH: 202/588-0543)

Web Site <http://members.aol.com/potomacbtl/bottle2.htm>

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A Note in an Alexandria Bottle

Richmond bottle collector Ed Faulkner recently received an email request from Daniel M. Burrier for information on an old beer or soda bottle marked "Summers and Allen, Alexandria, Virginia." Our book *Antique Bottles from the Washington, D.C. Area* lists this 7.5 inch bottle with either a Baltimore loop seal or a Hutchinson closure and values it at \$25-\$30. Similar Alexandria, VA bottles have been found with just the name C.J.W Summers. Other C.J.W. Summers bottles identify him as a druggist at the corner of Duke and Alfred streets. We also referred Mr. Burrier to Matt Knapp's web site (<http://members.nbci.com/guntherhess/bottles/bottles.htm>). After examining Matt's pictures, Mr. Burrier decided that the bottle in question probably had a Baltimore loop closure. He also sent us this family legend associated with the bottle.

The bottle is owned by an elderly gentleman whose family owned the farm that is now Prince William Forest Park in the Triangle area near Quantico. The gentleman's grandfather related to him as a child the following account. A neighboring farmer had a son who took a trip to Alexandria in the 1890s and, after returning from the trip, went "up into the woods" where a cave was located near the major creek. In that his family was highly religious, it was thought he retreated to the cave to enjoy the product of his trip away from family scrutiny. While at the cave, he fell from a cliff and broke his leg in two places. The only things he had with him were this bottle, a piece of paper (believed to be a receipt of some sort), and a pencil. He wrote a note and sent it downstream in the bottle. A couple of days later, while watering horses at the creek, the grandfather found the bottle, summoned help, and went up-creek. Sure enough, the man's life was saved because of the bottle and note. The ironic thing is that the bottle may also be responsible for his injury. The man went to the woods to drink his beer in solitude, and the alcohol likely contributed to his fall.

Insuring your collection

Club Vice President Allen Einseln wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. He also sends us this reminder about insurance in this increased "risk of fire" season.

Recently a friend in Woodbridge lost a small collection stamps, coins, and bottles(100+), to a house fire. The house and contents were almost a total loss, and the collectables were not insured. Oh, well. Yours can be.



Editor's Note: Do these really need insuring?

One company that offers such insurance is "CIA," or Collectibles Insurance Agency, in Westminster, Maryland. A 30 year track record, and multiple coverage categories, can prevent the loss of "decades of investment" in our collections. Call /Collectibles Insurance Agency / Post Office Box 1200/ Westminster MD. 21158/or call 1-888-837-9537/fax 410-876-9233/E-mail: collectinsure@pipeline.com/ Website: www.collectinsure.com

We would be interested in hearing what experience other club members have had with insuring their collections. Has anyone filed a claim for destroyed or stolen bottles?

Bottle Show Report

The Forks of the Delaware Bottle Collectors Association sponsored a sold-out show on November 26th at the Catholic High School in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The show featured a good mixture of inexpensive dug items and more expensive rarities. Although it had not been as well advertised as many of the dealers would have liked, a fair number of buyers managed to find it. The club raised its 7:30 AM early admission price to \$20 this year, but most of the buying still appeared to take place before the 9 AM regular opening.



On with the show?

Our club has not had a bottle show in the last two years, and some members now seem ready to return to “show business.” Jim Sears would be willing to act as show chair, but any other member who wants the job can have it. We will also need volunteers to help with advertising, displays, admissions, and the many other things we have not even begun to consider.

We are aiming for a small summer show at our regular meeting place, the Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda. Two possible dates are Saturday, June 23rd and Saturday, June 30th. The church is currently available for either of these dates, but we should make our reservation soon.

John Hunsaker suggests that some insulator sellers might be interested in joining our show effort. If this happens we may be able to get insurance for the show through the insulator association.



Here are the contestants for “shard of the year.”

Thanks to Matt Knapp for taking the photos in this newsletter.

The following pages contain an article by club member Jack Sullivan, which is reprinted from *Bottles & Extras* magazine. Jack recommended this article to us after reading “The Bottle Collector 1975 and 2000 A.D.” in our October *Pontil*.