

HIGH ON THE HAWG

or

How the Western miner lived,
as told by bottles he left behind

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Much has been written about the hardships of the early Western miner's life—the hard work, the inadequate food, the claim jumping, the robbings and the killings. Almost nothing has been said about the lighter side of his life, how he obtained the necessities and the luxuries of living, or even the fact that he obtained luxuries. The television stories seldom touch on the miner's life. Its wagon trains are only those by which he and his family came West—they never tell about the even more numerous freight wagon trains or the vessels that brought him goods and crowded San Francisco's harbor when the crews jumped ship and hurried to the diggings. What they brought enabled the miner to live a much more comfortable life than we hear about. He could, and did, live high on the hog.

The miners came, the diggings flourished and large towns grew around the richer strikes. But the gold panned out or the cost of digging became too great for the value of gold recovered, so the miners moved on and their towns

became ghost towns. All that remained were the decaying buildings and most importantly, the dumps into which they threw their trash. From 1850 to 1890 the story was repeated over and over.

Today a new race of diggers is finding a new kind of treasure in these dumps. They are the ghost town bottle collectors. The thousands of bottles that they find tell a story of the things that the miners bought and used.

The bottles found have become valuable treasures to well over a thousand members of the "Antique Bottle Collectors Association", which grew out of local gatherings but soon became national in scope. Perhaps few of their bottles would compete with the art forms for grace beauty and esthetic interest. The asking prices of some of these bottles rival even the historical flasks and antique pressed ware.

What these bottles usually possess is a glass-embossed identification of the name of its contents and the maker of the contents. The

bottles also exhibit by the technique used in making them, a dating system within limits, which can be compared with the known age of the site in which they are found, less they be intrusives of 'artifacts after the fact'. Since their contents reveal something about the people of the time to which they are associated, the bottles themselves become items in a historical archaeology of those days in which hundreds of mining camps existed in Nevada, California and Arizona.

It is important to realize that this became a simple demand-and-supply matter. Miners had to create the demand by being willing to pay for the luxuries of the contents of the bottle, and even the necessities. The filled bottles had to come from far off places in order to fill the demand. The great quantity of empty bottles indicate that the traffic was very heavy.

You would expect whiskey bottles, of course, according to all the stories about the miner's gay life—or such it is often made out to be. It is probably true that his cheaper 'drinkin likker' came in barrels, and often some rather poor stuff at that. There were better whiskeys in bottles—many of them, and of many brands—and perhaps filled over and over after the original contents had been consumed. If the mood of the miner required the better kind, he might ask for the bottle. He surely celebrated new strikes and good days, and so long as he had the necessary dust in his pockets would turn to the bottle. Or perhaps it would only be to spend the money while he had it.

According to the lettering of the bottles that he discarded by the tens of thousands he bought many other items also. The almost imperishable nature of glass has preserved their names for nearly a hundred years, and even fragments of broken bottles can tell a story. Drug and medicine bottles almost head the list, far exceeding the number of whiskeys. The numbers of bitters bottles follow, then cosmetics, mineral waters, foods in glass and household items. Many of the bottles came from abroad, since their shipping costs would be competitive with overland freight, whether by wagon or by railroad, or by vessel from the Eastern seaboard. Such bottles carry both lettered embossing and glass maker's identification marks from England, Germany, France and other European countries. They indicate a wide range of desire and fulfillment, even though sealed bottles would travel, either by sea, wagon or rail freight at rates that would be prohibitive in a more level economy.

In addition, San Francisco had a glass bottle industry from the mid-sixties, only fifteen years after the discovery of gold. Many of the glass packed products were California packed in California glass, for California early had food and other industries. Eastern glass companies also sold empty glass containers to the California businesses. One good example is that enterprising salesman from the Millville, New Jersey, Bottle Manufacturing Company, who seems to have cornered the mining area drug store trade, selling them individualized bottles lettered with their own names embossed thereon. Druggists in such scattered places as Bodie, Big Pine and Sutro in California, Virginia City, Eureka and Goldfield in Nevada, Walla Walla, Washington and Klamath Falls, Oregon, bought their bottles from him. At least one collector is attempting to bring together each size of bottle used by the eight known drug stores in Virginia City.

Bottles may be approximately dated by the techniques used in their making, and sometimes even closer by the manufacturer's marks. Mr. S. Alan Skinner, writing in *Plateau*, Volume 39, Number 3, Winter 1967, used bottle makers marks to confirm other information as to the dates for three sites he investigated for the Museum of Northern Arizona. Rex L. Wilson and Arthur Woodward of the National Park Service, and Charles B. Hunt have all published papers that include references to bottles as site-dating means. Thus, bottles are playing an important part in historical archaeology.

Wines and Whiskey

Let's look at the miner's whiskey list first. A great many of his bottled whiskeys were of San Francisco origin. Among the names most encountered were Louis Taussig, The Chevalier Co., J. H. Cutter, and Roth & Co. But Louisville and other Kentucky points were high on the list. "Williams" of Louisville, "Red Top Rye" (yes, rye from Kentucky), "C. H. Moore's Bourbon", "Paul Jones"—but called "Old Monongahela", "Taylor & Williams", "Tom Cooper", Slater's "Premium Bourbon" and a dozen other bourbons made up the Kentucky group. The A. M. Jones Distilling Co., of Liberty Missouri, Duffy's "Malt Whiskey" from Rochester, New York, and John Gilbert & Son of New Haven, Connecticut, added width to the distribution. Maryland was well represented by "Monogram Pure Rye Whiskey", "Yellowstone Rye" (not the Yellowstone bourbon of today), "Mt. Vernon Pure Rye", "Quaker Maid", "Carroll's Rye", and "American Club".

But not all whiskey was American. Ireland's "Old Bushmill" and Scotland's "Old Thimble" pinch bottle, "James Buchanan", and "King William IV Scotch" were undoubtedly for something special—and something special came along quite often to judge from the number of bottles found. William Whitley, of Leith, Scotland, added "Round the World Whiskey", matured by shipping the filled kegs on long sailing voyages to mature as ballast. We know it today as "King's Ransom".

The gin list was quite continental, except for a gin with a Dutch name, Bouvier Bouven, from Louisville. Many gins were in pottery bottles from Holland—in fact, the names Holland and Gin were so synonymous that the word "Hollands" means gin. (Our word 'gin' is an Anglisizing of the Dutch word for Juniper, "Genever" or "Jenever".) One of the

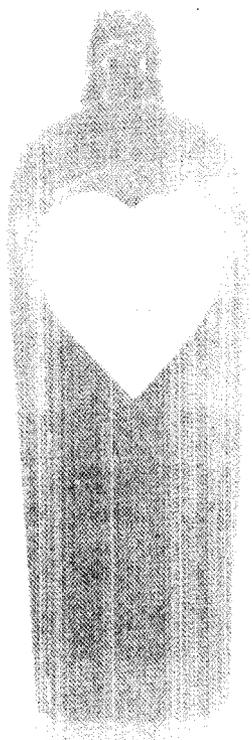


FIGURE 1.

most eagerly sought collectors bottle is the one that held A. von Hoboken's gin, from Rotterdam. Ball & Dunlay's gin also came from there. Bol's "Het Lootsue" gin was from Amsterdam, but it was from Scheiden that most of them came. These includes Daniel Visser & Zonne's "Oude Jenever", Schade & Buijsing, P. Hoppe's "Extra Blackbird",

Herman Janson's "Genevra Gin" and Blankenhijns' "Nolet". Certainly the miners did not buy the bottles empty.

Rotterdam and Scheiden also furnished Aromatic Schnapps, first cousin to gin. Gordon's Gin, from England, was quite common. Gilka's Gin was from Berlin, but in bottles lettered in English for the English speaking trade.

France did well with its Cognacs and Cordials. "Coca Mariana" from Paris, "Vieux Cognac", "Amer Picon", "Pernod" and "Benedictine" are only a sampling of the brand names that were on bottles that came all the way from France to the smallest mining camps. There was also "Jamaica Ginger Brandy", "Rhum des Plantations" and many brands of Maraschino. Even Greece furnished a brandy. Clark's "Cherry Cordial" and "Old Tom" cordial were probably American.

The miner's known wine list was not so striking, but there was Champagne in variety, Medoc, and Bordeaux identified. Generally wine was packaged in paper labelled bottles, unlettered in the glass, and the paper was long washed away. Only the numerous bottles of wine shape, and with pushed up bottoms remain to prove that wine was a prime mining town item. There were identified wine bottles from Chili, and a sprinkling of Arrac from the east. One begins to believe that the otherwise 'unhappy' miner, as an individual, was something of a connoisseur. But remem-

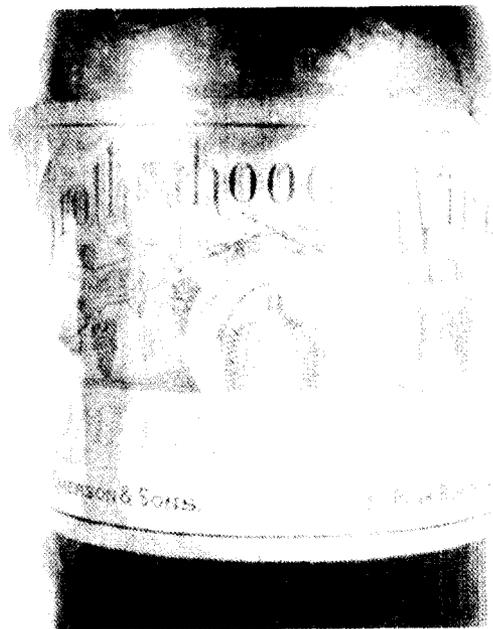


FIGURE 2.

ber, the miners came from all parts of the world, and would seek the products of their homelands.

It took a true connoisseur to develop his mineral water list. Hunyadi Janos brand of Saxlehner's Bitterquelle (bitter spring) from Austria headed the list. (John Hunyadi was a Hungarian patriot and army leader against the Turks in 1441 and regent of Hungary from 1446.) Carlsbad Water, from Germany, Johan Hoff's mineral water from Berlin, Appollinaris from Neubahr, Germany and marketed by a London company which labeled the bottles "bottled at the spring" and "Wetter Spring" water was a group that ranked high in numbers. Appollinaris was so popular that it was widely imitated in America by the use of the name, and the practice was only halted by a court order, in the 1880's. America was well represented in its own right by "Buffalo Lithia Water", Walpole's "Elk Lithia" from Elkton, Virginia, and "Pluto Water" from Indiana. There were many bottles simple labeled "Selters".

Bitters

It was in the bitters field that variety was the order of the day—the list of brand names exceeds one hundred. Many were labled as tonics and cures and it is difficult to tell

whether the miner drank them as 'likker' or medicine, or both. "Underberg's Bitters", from Germany, was surely just for drinking, although what we sampled in Germany bottled by the same company today tasted like medicine to my untrained palate. Angostura from Venezuela, another ghost town bottle but still a modern product, was in quantity. Lacking the paper labels one cannot be sure for what purpose many of the bitters were intended, although many of the lettered glass bottles identified them as medicines and tonics. A bottle with an intact paper label is a collector's prize.

Some of the names on bitters bottles were: "Alpine Herb", "Wild Cherry" by Dr. Harters of St. Louis, "Lash's Kidney and Liver Bitters", "Ferric-Chine-Balerii" from Milano, Italy, "Bavarian Bitters", "Chamberlain's Bitters", "Wild Grape Root Bitters", "Marshall's Bitters", "Electric Bitters", "California Fig Bitters", "Plantation Bitters" from Los Angeles, and "Stag Bitters". Names meant little: Kennedy's "East India Bitters" came from Omaha, Nebraska.

A long list of kidney and liver bitters was available. Not only Lash's just named, but also "Star", "Wait's", "National", "Safe", "Kennedy's" and many others. Attwood, of Chicago, specialized in a "Jaundice Bitters",



FIGURE 3.



FIGURE 4.

Dr. Henley in "Wild Cherry Bitters" and Dr. J. Hostetter in a "Stomach Bitters" (Figure 4). Dr. Thomas Hall prepared a "California Pepsin Wine Bitters". There was also an "African Stomach Bitters".

Before we classify even the so-styled medicinal bitters as actual medicines, it should be recalled that bitters originated during the early 1700's as a means of classifying whiskeys and gins in the medicinal field by adding herbs and various flavoring substances, and thus taking them out of the whiskey tax bracket. They could be classified as medicinal tonics. The practice spread to this country from George II's England. The alcoholic content ranged up to 40%, and the 'dosage' ran to 'three or four wine-glasses full each day'. The statement that the alcohol content was 'only sufficient to hold in solution the extracted medicinal properties' no doubt assuaged the feelings of many an otherwise temperate imbibor. One could always increase the dosage to speed the cure.

Some of the more temperate miner's delighted in Cantrell & Cochran's "Irish Ginger Beer", now 'de-fanged' to become today's ginger ale. There were many ales and stouts in pottery as well as glass bottles bearing English bottlemakers' marks. E. & J. Burke's "Irish Malt" is found everywhere. A few early soda water bottles still retain vestiges of the wire that held the cork tight, but most have patent seals dating from the seventies. The local soda water maker followed close on the heels of the miners who established towns.

Drugs

Many as were the liquor bottles, the great quantities of drug and medicine bottles show that the rugged, robust miner was far from robust and rugged. The medicine bottles, some for ethical drugs but most for nostrums, outnumber the liquor bottles several fold. Liquor bottles, even though in considerable quantity, bring high prices in the antique bottle field because of their glamour, their decorations, and the names they bear. Drug bottles are so numerous that some could be called a 'drug' on the market. Throughout this story the chief interest is not the rarity of the bottle, for that would indicate little demand. It is the very opposite of rarity that indicates the miner's great use of these products packaged in glass.

Let's start off with the liniments, for the miner was a hard working man and must have spent many a day racked with muscular pains. It was also a damp life that required



FIGURE 5.

long hours at the water's edge, panning, or in dusty, deep, ill-ventilated pits. Some of his liniments are still on the market today—Sloan's, for instance, or Hamlin's "Wizard Oil". Others were lettered on the bottle with such names as "Hunt's", "Watkins'", "Mexican Mustang", "Ballard, Snow & Co." of St. Louis, "H. H. H.", "Hoff's", "Dr. H. McLean's", and "Kikapoo Indian Oil".

The poor cooks among the miners, and the equally poor food when he was not in the money, or was too busy digging, brought the usual digestive disturbances. Bottles labeled with the names of stomach remedies were numerous. Eno's "Fruit Salts" came all the way from England in English bottles. The miner also had Gude's "Pepto-Mangin", citrate of magnesia, "Laxol", "Nau's Dispepsia Remedy", Mulford's "Laxative Salts of Fruit", Fairchild's "Essence of Pepsin", Caldwell's "Syrup of Pepsin" (perhaps we should also list this among the children's remedies) Husband's "Calcinated Magnesia", and "Pa-Pay-Ans", later known as "Bel-Ans". Dr. D. Jaynes supplied a "Tonic Vermifuge" and Warner's packaged their "Safe Diabetes Cure", along with their other "Safe" products.

Working in the diggings, often in dusty, even desert, atmosphere, caused lung ailments. Tuberculosis, Silicosis, Emphysema (as yet unnamed but the miner had it) and kindred lung disorders must have been common as judged by the bottle letterings. Dr. Syke's "Catarrh Cure", "One Minute Cough

Cure", Hall's "Catarrh Cure" (Figure 5), Dr. Jayne's "Expectorant", "Botanic Cough Syrup", a "Gargling Oil" from Lockport, New York, Coltfoot's "Expectorant", Giraffe brand "Tonsilene" (good tie-in name, that), Dr. Seth Arnold's "Cough Killer" were some of the names. Hall's also sold a "Balsam for the Lungs". Other names were: Force's "Asth-Manna for Asthma, Bronchitis and Colds", Schlenk's "Pulmonic Syrup" and Dr. A. Bochin's "German Syrup". The many bottles of Shiloh's "Consumption Cure" attest its heavy use.



FIGURE 6.

There were many balsams, and included with those already mentioned were several kinds of "Wild Cherry Balsam", Combault's "Caustic Balsam", "Black Oil Healing Balsam" and Hr. Hayne's "Arabian Balsam".

Chills and fevers were common. They were treated with Grove's "Tasteless Chill Tonic", a "Fever and Ague Antidote" and William's "Sure Cure for all Malarial Diseases". When the miner made a more serious self-diagnosis he had available Dr. Kennedy's "Rheumatic Dissolvant", Keely's "Rheumatic Syrup", Dr. Miles' "Rheumatic Blood Purifier" and Lord's "Opodillac", the latter in an ornate bottle decorated in imperishable glass with a drawing of a man throwing his broken crutches away.

Further, there were a whole shelf-full of pain killers, beginning with one modestly named "King of Pain". There was also Davis' "Pain Killer", "Bromo-Caffeine", Burnett's "Cocaine" from England, and Dr. McMunn's "Elixir of Opium".



FIGURE 7.

Many of the bottles were lettered for oils and petroleum jellies. "Kikapoo Indian Oil" has already been mentioned. Others were "St. Jakob's Oel", "Pix' Cresol", Moore's "Emerald Oil", "Wisdom's Robertine", "Astrack's Ointment", "Ozomulsion", and not only the familiar "Cheesebrough's Vaseline" but another that seemingly never heard of Cheesebrough's copyright.

Perhaps the miner felt only a run-down condition. Over a hundred brands of Sarsaparilla are known. It must have been a pleasant tasting tonic, and perhaps the alcoholic content was an attraction. Among others were "Balsam of Life", "Celery Compound", "True's Elixer", Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery", "Vigor of Life", Dr. Shoop's "Family Medicine", "Herbine", W. H. Bull's "Herbs and Iron", Dr. Shiloh's "System Vitalizer", Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription", "Oregon Kidney Tea" and Dr. Hock's "Purely Vegetable Remedies". Perhaps the miner himself used "Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound" as well as his womenfolk judging from the quantities used and from the newspaper advertisements directed to men, but Dr. Hayden's "Viburnam Compound" was strictly a 'female remedy'.

The kidneys must have been of constant concern, as judged by the many "Kidney Pills". Then, there was "Simmon's Liver Reg-



ulator", Warner's "Safe Kidney and Liver Cure" (Figure 8) in a bottle featuring a large money-safe in outline (no doubt Warner's), Lash's "Kidney and Liver Bitters", Dr. Sanford's "Liver Invigorator", Dr. Kilner's "Swamp Root Liver Remedy", and "Adler-I-Ka" appendicitis treatment. There was also Ayer's "Pectoral", Saegel's "Swedish Essence", "Extract of Smartweed", "Ayer's Pills", Kendall's "Spavin Cure for Human Flesh", Osgood's "India Chalacoque from New York, (and whatever that was we cannot know), "Paris Injection Brau" complete with the address at 102 Richelieu in Paris but all lettering in English,—for the miner's benefit, of course! "Radway's Ready Relief" relieved something not stated for the paper labels are long-gone and the small bottle had room only for a few glass-embossed letters. Radway also made a "Microbe Killer", with the bottle showing a man with a maul about to crush a beetle-like monster half his size.

For the eyes, Dr. Thompson's "Eye Water" and Dr. R. Dickey's "Old Reliable Eye Water" sufficed. Whether the miner saw his dentist twice a year or only 'when it hurt' we do

not know, but we do know that his dentist relied heavily on the products of L. D. Caulk of Philadelphia. There was "Caulk's Filling Materials", "Caulk's Petroid Cement", L. D. Caulk's alloy, "Major's Cement", "Imperial Cement; and "Detrev's Synthetic Porcelain".

With all the fakes, quackery and nostrums that were at his convenience, both the 'sure cures' and those that merely alleviated the symptoms, the miner could take care of nearly everything that ailed him, or that he imagined. He often turned to practicing doctors, but more often for broken bones and wounds, and these are the probable users of the products of such ethical drug houses as Wyeth, Sharpe & Dohme, Parke Davis, and Squibb. The surgical dressings of Johnson & Johnson must have been well known since the fruit jars that they used in which to sterilize and to ship their products in the later days are often found.

Still another illusion must be shattered. All Westerns involving sudden death, whether by story, film, or television, usually include an account of burial the same day, or next morning, just where the death occurred, with a large pile of stones to mark the grave and to keep animals away. Sometimes a proper burial must have taken place with a full preparation of the body. Then surely the bottled products of the Embalmer's Supply Company of Westford, Connecticut, must have been used,—hence the many empty bottles in the dumps.

The Home Life

The birds and the beasts were not neglected, though shown but little by evidence through bottled products. There were many "Spavin Cures", Glover's "Imperial Mange Remedy", and Humphrey's "Veterinary Specific". McAllister's "Mocking Bird Seed" found its way into the diggings. But one would question "Bird Bitters—20% alcohol" and classify it as just another bitters for human consumption, if it had not been put up by the Philadelphia Bird Food Company. One wonders what it would have been like to be a mining town canary on an honest-to-goodness bird-food jag!

If the miner took a day off, he could have had a wonderful choice of inks with which to write home. Some of the names are well known today: Stafford, Carter, Waterman, Sanford, while some are long-gone, as Carlton, Stick-Well & Co., L. H. Thomas (an English ink maker), and the many unnamed. Many of the inkmakers also made pastes, as they do today.



FIGURE 9.

There must have been sewing machines here and there, or at least in the later days—bottles of oil marked “Singer Sewing Machine” have been found. There was also “3-in-one”, along with “Filterene” from Cheesebrough, together with Gladstone’s “Paraffin Oil”.

There is another indication of womanly presence. The miner must have had ample reason for ‘dressing up’ on occasion, and with attention to his shoes, of all things. A most common bottle is that for Boston made “Whittemore Blacking” (Figure 9), but other bottles carry the lettered names of “Raven Gloss Shoe Dressing”, “Eclipse French Satin Gloss Dressing”, Acme “Blacking” and today’s “Bixby’s”.

Cosmetics

As went the foot, so went the head in this ‘slicking up’ process. The list of names is long: Frank Miller’s “Crown Dressing” Mayor’s “Walnut Oil Hair Dye” (must have been a ‘natural’ product), “Gilt Edge Dressing”, “Eclipse Dressing” (could it have been the shoe blacking just mentioned turned end for end?), the products of Ed. Pinaud of Paris, “Howland Macasser Oil” (remember the



FIGURE 10.

crocheted ‘anti-macassers’ that mother made for the backs of all upholstered furniture?), Barry’s “Tricopherous for the Skin and Hair”, “Hair Vigor”, Paul Westphaul’s “Auxilator for the Hair”, Parker’s “Hair Balsam” (that early greasy kid stuff), William’s “Brilliantine”, and Haswell’s “Witch Hazel Creme” gave a many-sided figure for the men’s choice. There were bottles merely labeled “For the Hair” (Figure 10).

As yet it is hard to identify Dr. J. H. McLean’s “Volcanic Oil”, Pratt’s “Abolition Oil” or “Salvation Oil”—whether for the muscle or the hair.

The miner’s lady had her beauty aids, too. Many are well known today for they are by companies long in the business. They include bottles lettered for “Cuticura Blood and Skin Purifier”, Gouraud’s “Oriental Cream”, “U-Ar-Das Complexion Cream”, Pond’s “Extract”, Wakelee’s “Camelline”, “Pompeian Massage Cream”, “Purola Tint”, “Creme de Camelia” by Borodent of New York, Ely’s “Cream Balm”, and Hind’s “Honey and Almond Cream”. In one of the oldest looking bottles, and with a name to invoke many fancies was “Balm of a Thousand Flowers”.



FIGURE 11.

In perfumes there was "Hire's Cologne" from Philadelphia, Kerkoff's "Paris Perfume" (Figure 11), "Alfred Wright's Perfume" from Rochester, New York, "Peacock Perfume" from London, "Vogue Perfume" from New York, perfume by Antoninie Chiras of Grasse, France and by A. Durand et Fils, Bordeaux. "Extract of Roses and Rosemary" was from New York, also. One thing, too, about the miner and his lady, they often bought the large, economy sizes.

The Household

Let us consider next a less glamorous phase of the distaff side—wash day. No wonder detergents in those days—probably 'elbow grease' and a rough naphtha soap. These would not have been in glass, anyway, nor would soap flakes. Since soap may have generally been made on the spot from wood ashes and fat, it was probably little imported. But there were wash day aids. Two spellings were in vogue for Mrs. Sawyer's "Crystal Blueing" versus "Mrs. Stewart's Bluing", unless it was one of those common mold cutters errors. Three ammonias were available: Green's "Washing Ammonia", "California Washing Ammonia" and a by-product of the Pacific Gas Light Company. The West was not unwashed.

Foods

Now we come to the surprizing part of this story—the fact that the miner bought foods, even exotic foods, in glass from France, from Germany, from England, from the Mediterranean, as well as from the Eastern United States and California. California had two glass factories by the mid-1860's, which merged in 1876, and California had a growing food industry before it had a glass plant.

Olive oil was the common cooking fat, following the Spanish tradition, and it was a natural for glass packing. N. K. Fairbanks Co., a predecessor of Armour, did pack a Clover Leaf brand of lard in glass. Sylmar's of Los Angeles supplied one brand of California olive oil, Aeolea another, while a third brand was lettered simply "California Olive Oil" on the bottle. There were others with the French trade mark sign, "A. E. B. B. Depose" and a "Rey Umberto" brand from Italy. In addition Armours sold a "Salad Oil".



FIGURE 12.

A great variety of lettered bottles tell the flavoring extract story. Extracts were furnished by "Baker's", "Wellman", "Buckeye" of

Olympia, Washington (not Ohio), "Bothen Manufacturing Co.", Jacques Atwood's "Lemon Extract", "Watkins", "Folger's" (not then the exclusive coffee house it is today), and "Shillings". Both Hire's and Bryant's sold a root beer extract, while Hire's also sold a full line of flavorings. Dr. G. S. Wait's flavors were guaranteed "not to bake out, boil out, or freeze out"—so said the letters on the bottle.

Where did all the Jamaica Ginger go? It surely was not necessary to use it as an auxiliary source of liquor, as during prohibition, for plenty else was available. Yet four brands are found in great plenty, along with others in lesser quantity. These four are: Hostetter's, who also made a well known bitters, Langley's, E. G. Lyons & Co., all from the States, and Dr. Collis Brown's from London.

One brand of glass packed baking powder was "Rumford's"—another was "Horshead". While coffee must seldom have been in glass in those days, at least two companies packed a premium brand, Folgers and Shillings.



FIGURE 13.

Catsup came largely from Curtis Brothers of Rochester, New Jersey, and from Heinz of Pittsburgh—California then had no tomatoes

suitable for catsup. But California did supply pickles, olives, and relishes. Mrs. Reed's "Pioneer Brand" relishes, "Falcon Brand olives, and the various Shillings relishes and pickles were an addition to their extracts, coffees and teas. Heinz furnished a great variety of pickled foods. Crosse & Blackwell bottles, from England (Figure 13), are so plentiful as to have marked them as a major supplier, while other bottles of characteristic pickle and relish shapes merely carried the marks of English glassmakers to show their far-off origins. Joseph Campbell, of Camden, N. J., was another pickle supplier, and the Lewis Packing Co., of San Francisco, marked their jars 'Cherkins'.

"Electric Horse Radish" was as well known as the Heinz brand. Gulden sold an imported mustard, being strictly importers at that time. Cross & Blackwell sold a mustard and there was a "U.S. Navy" brand. But the most exotic mustard to have a maker's identification, and in much larger bottles than we generally use, was "Moutarde Diaphne" by Louet Freres, of France. Other mustards are identified as French by the single word, "moutarde" lettered on the jar.

Of sauces there were many kinds. One bottle merely was lettered "Green Sauce". The McIlheny Company of Avery Island, Louisiana, early furnished the hot sauce. There was Lea & Perrins's Worcestershire, both in the bottles of J. S. Duncan & Son, New York, who had the import rights and used his own private bottle, but also other bottles with British markings. Sauce Maggi was a Swiss product; Durkee's, in a distinctive bottle with an imitation of British pottery and glass markings, was from New York. Armour's "Flued Extract of Beef" has been mentioned. Peppersauce came in distinctive bottles. Burnam's "Clam Bullion" and Fox's "Clam Tea" were undoubtedly delicacies for miners from New England. One popular item was merely lettered "My Wife's Salad Dressing". Even empty caviar jars are in good supply.

The Children

Where there are miners and miners' ladies, there are eventually miner's wives and miner's babies. Were they neglected in this, up to now stiled, man-killing wilderness? Not if the bottle can be believed. There was Mulford's "Predigested Beef", "the Mother's Friend", "Mellin's Foods", Acker's "Baby Soother", Chamberlain's "Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy", Mrs. Winslow's "Sooth-

ing Syrup", and Foley's "Safe Diarrhea Cure". How much the two latter remedies were laced with paragoric is a question.

There were many makes of nursing bottles, including named sorts: "Betsy Brown", "Bunny", "Burr's Patent", and one by T. C. Wheaton Glass Company, of Millville, New Jersey.

Conclusion

So there it is—the easier side of the miner's life, and one not normally mentioned, and perhaps a little on the de-bunking side. But it is better documented than many a "Western", for it is entirely from lettered bottles dug from western ghost town dumps. In the main it is from California of the 1850-1890 period. The bottles have been dug by collectors within the past ten years or so, but many of the towns have been abandoned for over three-quarters of a century. It is a story in which rarity of the finds was not a factor.

Whole bottles have been found by the tens of thousands. One collector alone told me he had over fifteen thousand bottles. How many bottles were broken and beneath the collector's notice is not known, nor how many are yet to be discovered. The fact of the bottles is real—tremendously real.

The traffic West must have been tremendous by freight wagon, railroad and ship. Filled bottles were brought at great expense, whether from the East, or from England, Scotland, France, Germany, or Italy,—or even from nearby San Francisco. The miner was a ready and willing customer for the better things in life—when he had the dust to pay for them. It fulfilled a desire to "eat high on the hog". But perhaps most of all, the lowly bottle, carrying the things he knew at home, was always a tie to that home.

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