

SHOW REPORT

Mansfield, Ohio - Saturday, May 8th, 2004



For the two days of the show, which included set-up, it seemed that the crowd never slowed down. We arrived a few minutes before they opened the door, and tried to beat heavy rain in getting unloaded and inside where it was dry.

Later in the afternoon, dinner was provided for the dealers and displayers by the Ohio Bottle Club which followed a short FOHBC meeting where the EXPO and other matters were briefly discussed.

After everyone had eaten their fill, the auction begun. I was amazed at the prices - as well as the number of items offered.

The show had so many tables full of wonderful things that it was hard to see it all in the two days I was there. Bottles were everywhere!

Pictured on the left is what I personally consid-

ered the item I most wanted to bring home, and didn't. It was a 5-gallon Orange Crush jug in a nice light-green glass. The jug read upside down from its base, but what appealed to me most was the figure of "Crushy" with the juice lines running down from his crushed orange, and above him, the words, "Here's How." I have a regular-size soda crowntop bottle with the same embossings, in the same light-green color - so this definitely caught my eye. I bet I went by it a dozen times. The dealer started out with a price of \$700 then reduced it down to \$600 by the end of the show - but at that moment, it was a bit out of my budget, so I had to watch him later pack it back up at the end of the day. During one of my trips by his table, a Crush employee noticed my interest in the jug and said he had only seen one of them before in his life.

sigh Perhaps next time (hopefully there will be a next time).

Since I have been doing the *Soda Fizz*, I have had several people E-mail me and ask me to include a photo of myself (for those who don't already know me). I am not the photographer, but did get caught in a frame. You can see the back of me while sitting with June Lowry (Mrs. Jar Doctor) having a chat at the show. (I am the one on the left.) In the foreground, you can see one of my "show neighbor's" selection of milk bottles.



Then, later my roaming photographer caught me again replenishing the supply of magazines on the table. I have no idea who the two gentlemen beside me are.

Unfortunately, my table was in the middle of the main room with milk bottles, flasks and fruit jars. It seems that the soda related items were in a different location from me,

so I had to wander around to find the sodas. And it also seemed that I forgot to take the camera with me, so although there were loads of soda bottles and go-withs there, I missed getting them on film.

The lady directly across from me had one soda item that I was able to catch in a nice pose. The Cherri Bon dispenser, which I think is similar in design to the old Orange Crush dispensers, has cherries around its base. It was missing its top but was a bright cherry red. It also went back home with her after the day was finished.



Next to her was Ed and Kathy Gray with a nice assortment of flasks. Their table was consistently busy throughout the show, but I still got a chance to meet them.

Another thing that caught my eye was the Triple XXX Root Beer mug shown on the right. It seemed ironic to find it after last issue's article on the brand. It fit right in with the Pepsi-Cola glass behind it, the flask on one side and stoneware bottles on the other.

Speaking of mugs, below is a Hire's mug with the "ugly boy" claiming



"Health and Cheer" from "Hires Root Beer." He was a "loner" among other items of different collecting categories, but still attracted my attention. I also found a Hires dispenser, but its photograph did not turn out well, sitting right beside a Green Muscadine Punch dispenser.

My friend, who volunteered his services as photographer, got many photos from the show - but did not change the focus of the camera, so many of them were either too close, or too far away.

We did manage to get one photo of our fellow local club member's table. Peggy Cox is holding down the fort for her husband, Wade, who always has a nice assortment of soda bottles on his tables.

Why is it that us girls always get left behind at the tables while the guys go on the "hunt"?

All-in-all, the Mansfield show is a great show for soda bottles and go-withs. I enjoyed both days and brought lots of bottles home with me - and even picked up a *Soda Fizz* subscriber or two also!

Kathy

