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Signed: [Signature]
Date: 8th October 1989
Interviewer: Dr. J. Jackson
SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW WITH MR. IAN SHERMAN ON CORDIAL MANUFACTURERS IN NEWCASTLE AND THE HUNTER VALLEY.

I interviewed Mr. Sherman of Edgeworth, who is President of the Lake Macquarie Antique Bottle Club and a member of the Newcastle Historical Society. Mr. Sherman has been a collector of antique bottles for many years. His vast knowledge on the origins of the cordial factories and the bottles they used in their trade is fascinating. Many of the types of bottles they used are in the photos enclosed with this transcript.

Once most Hunter Valley towns and Newcastle suburbs had their local soft drink maker. It then made economic sense to carry the bottles and flavouring to small, labour intensive factories that added water and bubbles and distributed their products to houses and shops over a limited area.

Today, nationally marketed soft drinks, backed by multi million dollar advertising campaigns, have captured the public's imagination. Changes in shopping habits have meant that most soft drinks are now bought in big supermarket chains. The chains have adopted centralised buying that has seen the old local soft drink factory lose out to highly automated, big city production lines controlled by such giants as Castlemaine Tooheys Ltd., Cadbury Schweppes Pty. Ltd., Amatil Ltd and Beecham Australia Pty. Ltd.¹

Hunter Valley Research Foundation figures show that in 1972 there were 14 soft drink production and distribution establishments employing 365 people in the Hunter region. By 1978, employment had fallen by 39.7% to 11 establishments. Employment had fallen a further 44.1% to 123 people in 5 establishments in 1985.²

2. Ibid.
TRANSCRIPTION OF INTERVIEW WITH MR. IAN SHERMAN.

SUBJECT : CORDIAL MANUFACTURERS OF NEWCASTLE AND THE HUNTER VALLEY.
INTERVIEWER : LYNETTE JACKSON.

My name is Lynette Jackson. Today, 8th October, 1989, I am interviewing Mr. Ian Sherman at his home in Edgeworth. Mr. Sherman is President of the Lake Macquarie Antique Bottle Club and a Committee Member of the Newcastle Historical Society.

Q : When did Y. Y. first start?
A : They were formed by the directors of George Hyde, James G. Cameron, Joseph Morris, David Amos, Frank Dexter and J. A. Richardson, and they bought out the well known Aerated Water Company of Healey Brothers at Newcastle, and this was acquired by an agreement with Mary Ann Healey, to form this company, and the company was formed as a household name in Newcastle. The word came from a Maori expression which was called "Wai Wai" meaning water, clear water, cool water or sweet water. This came from, while the daughter of the company's first chairman director, Mr. G Hyde, was honeymooning in New Zealand, heard the words and suggested it would be a good name for the new company. The company, the directors apparently agreed on this with the spelling of just Y. Y. being the registered trade mark. The company was in business for 63 years after that when they closed down, which was on the 25th August, 1983. So the business was declining with the loss of trade, in a few years they decided to go into voluntary liquidation. The creditors and shareholders decided to form redundancy payments.

Q : What was the reason that the company closed down?
A : The main reason was that about 82% of soft drinks in N. S. W. they were in the Sydney area and the products were distributed mainly through the large chain stores and this was bought to Newcastle, so the country areas sold at very competitive prices, and then the Federal Government increased sales tax from 15% to 17½% at the same time, and this withdrew the packages concessions that the
industry had enjoyed for many years, and then in 1982 the sales tax went from 17\% to 20\% and this sort of stopped the profits a bit, of the companies. Intensive competition over past six or seven years resulted in the number of workers at the cordial factory being reduced from 35 to 12. So that was mainly why they closed down.

Q: What bottles did they use for their cordials?
A: Their main bottles were, they used quite a few through their 63 years, there was ginger beers, stone ginger beers with crown seal tops, then they went into the crown seal side of it, mainly that's in glass. They didn't use a marble bottle but mainly into that crown seal vintage, right through up to screw tops and their last main ones were the non-returnable ones, the screw top vintage.

Q: Where was the proprietor of Redman's Cordial Factory born?
A: George Edward Redman was born in Somerset, England, 1828, and when he was 19 years of age he came out to the colony. He followed farming pursuits in the New England area for about 5 years and then afterwards entered the services of David Jones and Company of Sydney, where he remained for 5 years. Removing to Newcastle, he served 3\frac{1}{2} years hauling coal for the Coal and Copper Company. In places under his controllers he had as many as 100 horses. Then he returned to Sydney for 3 years as Government carrying contractor At the end of that time he took up farming on his own account at Smithfield, where he remained for 2 years.

Q: What did he do after that?
A: In 1862 he settled in Newcastle and took over the Bank Hotel, Hunter Street, which he kept for 16 months.

Q: When did he commence his cordial factory in Newcastle?
A: In 1865 he started a cordial factory in Blane Street, which he employed 1 man and 1 horse, which is now known as Hunter Street. So greatly was his business increased however, it was found necessary to remove to larger premises in Newcomen Street, where he continued for 12 years. Again he changed premises to Wickham, which he still occupied.
He now employs 22 men and 12 horses besides renting a store in Wallsend which he utilises as a depot for the district. He has the most modern machinery driven by steam.

Q: What family did Mr. Redman have?
A: George E. Redman had 4 children, 1 son and 3 daughters and he was a member of the local Lodge Harmony S. C.

Q: What was his employment record?
A: Overall the company from 1865 he had 1 man and 1 horse. In 1888, he had 22 men and 12 horses. In 1978 he had 40 persons, 1 semi, an 8x7 ton vending machines and confectionery vehicles.

Q: Mr. Redman was connected with the N. S. W. Aerated Water and Confectionery Company. How was that formed?
A: In 1896, the company was known as the N. S. W. Aerated Water and Confectionery Company. They formed with the shareholders, Mr. G.E. Redman, Richard, Alfred and George Coleman, Edward Pateman Coulter, J. T. Atkinson and G. E. Redman Jnr. It would appear that the company was formed by the man Mr. T. G. Lister who put the deal together with this signature on the agreement dated 20/10/1896. Eventually Mr. G. E. Redman bought out each partners share and sole ownership remained with his family and descendents until the 1960's.

Q: What happened in 1915 with the firm?
A: The firm moved to build another factory, this time in Hunter Street, near the Bank Corner. This one was up till around the 1920's, William Redman Petherbridge, grandson of G. E. Redman, was the manager of the Wallsend branch in Devon Street. This building is now occupied by the Linsley Bus Company. The property valuations and rising costs of operation of plant in Hunter Street, Newcastle, N. S. W. Aerated Water Company had to find a new location and rebuild.

Q: Where did they rebuild?
A: In 1954 they moved to 56 Orlando Road, Lambton. The factory in Lambton was built at a cost of £60,000, and the bottling plant had a capacity of 600 dozen, 24oz bottles and 400 dozen, 10oz bottles.
per hour. The N. S. W. Aerated Water and Confectionery Company in
the 1950's gained the Schweppes franchise for Newcastle. They were
proud to have been selected as the test market for the Schweppes
Export Cola. Then in the 1960's they bought out the Mullens Cordial
Factory, and then the company was acquired by Schweppes in 1967.

Q: What sort of bottles did they use?
A: Because G. E. Redman was one of the Newcastle very early companies,
they started from 1865 using the stick bottles, which was patented in
1870 with the wooden stopper. They also used the torpedo shaped
bottles, which were the Hamilton patents. They used the ginger beer
bottles in the crown seals and internal threads. They also used the
marble necks, 3 sizes in those, 7oz, 13oz, 26oz. Then they used the
internal screw threads, which was the Riley patent. They also used
the blob top corkers. Then they went into the crown seals. Eventually
the last of their bottles was the screw tops, right up till they
ceased in 1967.

Q: Who started the Mullens Cordial Factory?
A: Mullens Cordial Factory in Newcastle was started by Mr. P. J. Mullens
in 1908, in Station Street, Wickham. The business was in high
traditions of the trade. They had a fairly large factory. He had
2 sons, Mr. L. J. and C. J. Mullens working with him. The business
was in trade for quite some time.

Q: What interests did Mr. Mullens have?
A: Mr. Mullens was not only in the business of the cordials, he had other
outside interests. He took a keen interest in politics. He was one of
the earliest members of the N. S. W. Country Cordial Manufacturers
Association and committee man for many years. He was president of the
Association between 1941 and 1942. He succeeded Mr. F. E. Moore. His
leadership of the Association in those 2 years met with general
acclaim. He had previously served as president of the Newcastle
Association and also he continued regularly to the annual conferences.
He was there most of the time through his trade as a cordial
manufacturer. He retired after 57 years in the trade and this
was in 1952. At the grand age of 80 years and after 57 years in the trade he felt it was time he had a rest. Through the never failing age he still looked forward to convincing evidence that he was still good for many years yet. Mr. Mullens also recalls that his first job in the liquor trade, which he was connected in his younger days, was to try to induce hotel keepers to draw their beer by gas. This attempt proved a failure at the time but the process was later used by the N. S. W. Lager Brewing Company which went bankrupt, and the company was taken over by the late Arnold Resch. Mr. Mullens attributed to the firms failure to the extra price of lager beer, which was then 4d a pint and local beer was 3d a pint.

Q: What sort of bottles did Mullens use?
A: Mullens were in the cordial lemonade but also they were in the brewer ginger beers. They used the crown seal ginger beer bottles. They mainly used the crown seal glass bottles and at this stage the marble bottles I'm not sure, but that was mainly their trade. It was in the ginger beers and also the crown seals, and when their company was taken over by N. S. W. they were using crown seals.

Q: Who had the Steam Cordial Factory in Maitland?
A: This was run by Mr. G. Moore in Victoria Street. He was born near St. Helena and in 1853 he landed in Australia and came to Maitland, settled where the subject was educated in legal school and entered his fathers cordial factory. Six years later he became proprietor of this business which he now carries on.

Q: When did they come to Newcastle?
A: They came to Newcastle in 1873 and they were in the old Oddfellows Hall at the corner of Darby and Laman Streets, under the name of G. Moore and Son. A few years later he handed the business over to his son, Mr. A. F. Moore.

Q: Where was Mr. A F. Moore born?
A: Mr. A. F. Moore was born in Bedfordshire, England, on the 15th January, 1849 and after a voyage of six months he arrived with his parents in N. S. W. when he was 3 years old. His parents, who settled
in West Maitland, Newcastle was only a small place compared with West Maitland, and the company grew from Maitland down to Newcastle. Mr. A. F. Moore followed the same trade as his father, bakery and confectionery in Maitland but on coming to Newcastle in the beginning of the 70's he established a cordial manufacturing business which is still carried on under the management of his son Mr. F. E. Moore. Mr. Moore took an active part in the public affairs of Newcastle for many years. He was an alderman on the city council from 1892 to 1894, occupying the mayoral chair during 1893. He was a member of the hospital committee in 1880 and vice-president of the first committee of the Newcastle Agricultural Association. With the death of Mr. A. F. Moore, the business carried on with his three sons, Mr. F. E. Moore, Cyril H. Moore and G. Frank Moore, who were assisted for many years by their sister Florence Moore.

Q: What happened to the business then?
A: The business after all was taken when it was taken over by the National Bottle Company in Newcastle in 1950. The three brothers then quit the factory after an aggregate of 191 years service between them. After the takeover Mr. Moore carried on as interim manager for a period, and on his resignation he also resigned as president of the Newcastle and Maitland Cordial Manufacturers Association, a position he held for some nine years. In that position he followed in the footsteps of his father.

Q: What type of bottles did they use?
A: The main ones that they used because of the early company that it was, they used a lot of the torpedo ones or Hamilton patent ones, which had a wired down cork in them. They also used the marble bottles quite extensively, with three sizes in those, the 7oz, 13oz and 26oz, with the lion trademark embossed on them. They also used the stone ginger beers, both internal and crown seals. They also used the smaller sized lamonts, which had a stopper in them, and also they used the stick bottles which were the Hogben patent ones which were patented in 1870. Also they went into the last before they closed in
the 1950's was the crown seals. They still used the lion trademark on those.

Q: What was some of the other cordial manufacturers in Newcastle?

A: Wood and Clifton was a cordial manufacturer in Newcastle in 1872. They were soda water and cordial manufacturers. Because they weren't in business very long, they only used one type of bottle, which was the Hamilton patent one, torpedo with the words Wood and Clifton, Newcastle, on it. Also another company was the name J. Pilkington, Cordial Manufacturers, in Darby Street in the 1880's, and they used the ginger beer, early stone ginger beer and that company was in business not very long.

Also another company that was in Newcastle in the early 1890's, was the Rowlands and Lewis, who operated from 1854 in Ballarat, to manufacture lemonade, soda water and ginger beer. The company had a depot in Newcastle in the 1890's, and the main bottle was the marble bottle that they used, and this had the farmer and miner on it and has Newcastle, N. S. W. stamped on it. The business was in business up till 1917, when the manufacturers ceased operations.

Q: When was the Newcastle Ice and Cordial Works established?

A: This company was established in 1884 by the late J. C. Palmer, and are the only ice factories in Newcastle and the Great Northern Districts. In 1887, Mr. R. Wilson was appointed manager and Mr. Roberts and Company purchased the mineral water and cordial works, which was carried on in Union Street, Wickham. They had a very large connection supplying all the principle hotels in the city and suburbs. The Ice Works are centrally situated near the Government Railway Workshops and contain all the necessary plant etc. for storage and much more extended business.

Q: What sort of bottles did they use?

A: The Newcastle Ice Works mainly used the Lamont size, which was a small one and large one, and when the Roberts and Company took over they mainly used the ginger beer bottle which was embossed with the Roberts on it from Wickham.
Q: When did Knipe Brothers from Cessnock start?
A: Knipe Brothers was formed in 1923 as a partnership with Matt Knipe and his brother George, who took over the Wolstenholme Aerated Water Company, and this started trading as Knipe Brothers Aerated Waters. Their first trading day was not prosperous.

Q: Why wasn't it prosperous?
A: Because on that day the Bellbird Colliery disaster struck in the area which took 21 lives. They had to weather a decade of lockouts in the mining industries and the Depression, but in the early 30's were boasting of their T Model Ford trucks.

Q: What happened in 1937?
A: Matt Knipe died in 1937 and his son Harold took over the management in conjunction with George Knipe. Harold had little formal education but proved a first rate tradesman and astute business manager, and his business prospered.

Q: When did he die?
A: He died in 1956, shortly after George had retired, and the business was taken over by Harold's sons, John and Kevin. A year later the firm was incorporated as a propriety company with John Knipe as managing director, and a distributing company was formed with Kevin Knipe as managing director, and Noel Knipe as sales manager.

Q: What happened to them in 1988?
A: Knipe Brothers, the family business had been operating in Cessnock for 65 years, closed down after some poor trading.

Q: What was the reason for them closing?
A: The manager of the company in 1988, Mr. Colin Springbett, said yesterday the cordial manufacturers couldn't compete with the supermarkets and the do it yourself cordial makers products. They mainly closed for these reasons, and five of the staff had been dismissed and trading had been wound up. At its peak the company employed 24 people working 2 shifts and producing up to 2000 dozen bottles of cordial a day, but before it closed the business was acting mainly as a warehouse sub-contracting bottles and other
processes. Mr. Springbett said the closure was a sad occasion but inevitable. The business relied on summer trading, and trading for the summer before last was poor, while trading last summer was just diabolical he said. Poor trading for two summers combined with the general decline in trading just spelt the end of business. For 65 years the company has been part of Cessnock and we all know it will be sadly missed.

Q: What sort of bottles did they have?

A: They were in the business of the 65 years, they mainly used the early ginger beer crown seals. They did use some marble bottles. They mainly used crown seal glass bottles, and up till the time they ceased manufacturing they were using the screw tops, throw aways. The company was very big in Cessnock after all that time, the 65 years.

Mr. Sherman, I would like to thank you for your valuable time in helping me with this interview. I appreciate your assistance and knowledge on this subject. Once again thank you very much.
Evolution of the Soda bottle...

On this page we have endeavoured to trace the history of shape (in brief) of different types of soda water bottles used in the 19th century. We have tried only to show the more popular shapes that were in use over a long period of time.

It is interesting to note that the Hamilton patents were in use for over 100 years', the lamont types and blob top dump sodas, 50 years; and Codds over 70 years. Codds are still being used in some countries today, thus giving them a life span of over 100 years.

1870 - 1880's: Hogben patent, (stick bottle).
1880's - 1890's: Dump blob top soda.
1880's - 1890's: More conventional Hamilton.
1890's - 1920: Common codd.
1890's - 1920: Internal screw.
S. RICHARDS, NORTH SYDNEY with registered initials design trade mark. With 1d. deposit charged on this Bottle embossed on the back. Like bottle No. 3 the embossing is extremely heavy and it really stands out beautifully on these bottles. It is a 26oz. blob top internal screw and a very deep and bright emerald green colour glass with a good whittle moulded effect in the glass. This is the only one known and it is loaded with "eye-ball". It measures 75mm in dia. x 260mm high. Samuel Richards was in business in North Sydney from 1888 through 1920.

BRONGER BROS., PENRITH with the registered Hands Shaking trade mark. This bottle measures 80mm dia. x 263 mm high and is a 26oz. codd. It is one of three known and it is a beautiful dark bottle green colour. The only other two are in the Sharon Hunter and Clifford Kop collections. All three are what is known in the bottle world as sparkling mint.

MOORE of NEWCASTLE with the huge rearing lion trade mark. This bottle measures 80mm dia. x 260mm high and it is another very rare 26oz. codd of which it is one of three known examples. It is embossed BGW on the base which stands for Botany Glass Works of Sydney and dates the manufacture of this bottle between 1890 and 1907. This bottle is also in a very dark bottle green colour and it is the most beautiful of all 26oz. codds with the huge lion heavily embossed in the front of the bottle.

Reports of the odd good finds add to the belief that all is not dead in South Australia. Craig and Steve recently dug a number of ginger beers and an extremely rare half size maugham "W.H. Moyle, Port Pirie". Peter and Mim scored with a "Bottle of Alma" Pratt jar and a scarce crown seal glass ginger beer "Footner, Port Pirie", and a contractor in the city recently unearthed a Dickson Thistle and a good number of early S.A. impressed ginger beers. — Adelaide Newsletter.
The story of “House of B

One of the oldest cordial making businesses in Australia. A.F. Moore was owned and conducted by the same family for three generations.

It was in 1873 that the business opened in Newcastle under the name of G. Moore & Son. A few years later George Moore handed the business over to his son Augustus Fredrick Moore who immediately started building a large and up to date factory.

A public spirited citizen was A.F. Moore, an alderman of the Newcastle council for 12 years, and served as Mayor in 1893. For many years he was President of the Newcastle and Maitland District Aerated Water and Cordial Manufacturers Association.

A.F. Moore died in 1922 at the age of 73 years, his sons then took over until 1950 when the business was sold to National Bottling Company.

Various bottles were used by Moore as they were one company that liked to keep up with the times. They were Newcastle’s leader in Cordial Manufacture.

The above torpedo is from Col. and Jenny Swadling’s collection “A. F. Moore, Newcastle”, Small size Hamilton Patent and is one of only two known.

George Clifford started collecting bottles and has since become known throughout Australia by many thousands of people annually donating bottles to the collection, and recorded permanently in the building.

THE BIG STUBBY was built in 1914, 4 metres across, has 3 floors with a spiral staircase where you may (if you wish) sit on a slippery slide to the base. It is constructed from stubbies, is structurally in correct and took 5 months to build.

THE ‘WEE’ STUBBIES or Little Huts were built in 1975 from 5,000 stubbies are surely ‘HIS n HERS’ in the world.

Souvenirs for sale at the most reasonable prices for the largest selection of COLOURED BOTTLES on the SUNSHINE COAST, ranging from the smallest to the biggest.

We are sure you will find something to remember such as Granada Bottles and Whisky Bottles from the back pleasant memories, and not so pleasant Castor Oil Bottles.

We are sure you will find something to make your visit to the Sunshine Coast, Queensland more memorable.

See you at the House of Bottles, Myall Avenue, Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Phone 574440.

The above torpedo is from Col. and Jenny Swadling’s collection “A. F. Moore, Newcastle”, Small size Hamilton Patent and is one of only two known.

77 years in Darby St.
Newcastle

Colin & Jenny Swadling
More rare items come to light in Sydney

Information and photographs provided by Danny and Valerie Drake. Most items featured are from their collection.

J.L. Bacon, large green lip valve patent. This would be one of New Zealand's most sought after patents. There is only one other green lip large valve like this to my knowledge. Embossed on the back is "Rylands Valve, 4, Sole Maker Dan Rylands, Barnsley". The bottle measures 230mm high x 62 mm wide.

Tooth & Co. Ltd. Sarsaparilla with rearing horse trademark. A.G.M. on base dates this bottle between 1923 and 1934. This bottle is a nice dark emerald green colour. Less than six known.

A.F. Moore, Newcastle with Lion Trademark Lamont, also embossed is "J. Ross, Maker, Sydney" around base. This little beauty is one of only four mint ones known and was dug recently by Keith Henry of Newcastle. This bottle is in the nice Ross bottle green colour and is a real beauty for all those lamont collectors.

4. Lindeman Cawarra Wine. Hand blown ring seal in dark olive green to black, two piece slug mold. Measures 240mm high x 65mm high. One of two known, another rare beauty.

5. James Bros. Manufacturers, Manly, black top ginger beer. This is one of the most overlooked rare stonies in Australia today. There are several of these around with brown or green tops, but you can count the total real black tops on one hand. Any proper black top ginger beer in Australia is rare and it would be considered a top class "A" bottle in any show. This one is in the Brian Dyett collection and measures 178mm high x 75mm wide.

6. "C.H. Herwig and palm tree (in seal), Wachholder Schnapps." Black glass, heavy and crude with deep kick up. No cracks or chips but has sea washed skin. This is the only seal schnaps I have seen and measures 295mm high x 100mm wide at shoulder and 75mm wide at base.
RUTHERFORD DIG

It was at Rutherford, just a couple of months after our Maitland dig (see ABC June/July) that saw us following up a lead from a digger driver. He had told us that whilst laying cables at the local shopping centre, he had unearthed some bottles from the footpath.

We found the site exactly as described, a big area unused except for overflow car parking on busy Saturday mornings. After probing a large area and striking glass at every spot we decided a test hole was in order. Bottles straight away, a marble, ginger beer and a few of the commons dating around 1910-1920’s era GREAT! Who said finding tips was hard?

The next few weeks seemed like years as we waited for Mark Conway to trace the owners to obtain permission to dig. Finally the OK came, with the promise that we get in and finish the job as quickly as possible, so as to not inconvenience the other stores in the centre, any longer than necessary. Jim and his backhoe had a new assignment.

We all had high hopes about this tip. The age was just right for us to clean up on Marbles and ginger beers. However things didn’t quite go to plan. The tip averaged around 8 feet deep. The top 2 feet (from which most of the bottles came) was good, the next 6 feet was heavily fired and if that wasn’t enough, the dump had originally been a creek and water flowed freely through our trenches. Once down around 6 feet digging became dredging.

We got plenty of bottles in fact around 1,300 but it was the absence of marbles and ginger beers that was the outstanding feature of this tip. It was unbelievable that only two common marbles and forty ginger beers surfaced. There were heaps of broken ginger beers but hardly any broken marbles. There was no shortage of Companies operating around Rutherford and certainly no shortage of thirsty working class locals to sample their brews. What happened to all the empties? I guess that’s what makes this hobby so interesting yet, so often very frustrating.

Three Bristol glazed ginger beers:
J. Ellis/Weston & Cessnock crown seal with initials on the neck, W. H. Watson /West Maitland corker.
George Bell/Wyong crown seal.

Everybody added a few bottles to their collections and had enough for the swap - sell tables to cover their expenses. We drew cards for the better bottles and Dennis Odgers a specialist crown seal ginger beer collector scored by far the best bottle of the dig. It was an all white crown seal ginger beer from Glynn’s Cessnock.

Two black and white underglazed pot lids from Ede & Co./Perfumers.
An outstanding off white glazed crown seal ginger beer from W. D. Glynn/Cessnock with rooster t/m.
ATE BURN


SPECIAL AWARDS
Most Successful, Old: Peter & Jenny Cash.
Most Successful, Modern: Stephen & Barrie Pauling.
Most Successful Runner-up, Old: Ron Hanna.
Best Display, Old: Frank & Lillian Oakley-Smith.
Best Display, Modern: Warren Binney.
Most Informative Display: Don & Jan Tomsett.
Best Swap & Sell Area: Kevin Stokes.
Best Display Modern Bottles: Mariette Habibs.
Bottle of the Show: Eddie & Rhonda Sutcliffe.
Bernie Moran Perpetual Trophy: John Miniotis (Novice Winner).
Jim & Sandy Bell Perpetual Trophy: Warren Binney (Series or Set)

“Wood & Clifton Newcastle” soda water displayed by Peter Hile

Peter Hile displayed this bottle at the Goulburn State Show. From 1872 to 1879 Wood & Clifton produced soda water and cordials in Bolton St. Newcastle.

The partnership dissolved in 1879. The company was then taken over by Wood Bros. & Co. Fredrick & George Clifton then started their own cordial company in Newcomen St., Newcastle in 1879. So after only 7 years the firm of Wood & Clifton ceased to operate.
Rowlands for the Sydney Company, Cooma Spa Co. Ltd., which Rowlands had a rather large share. Finding from analysis at this spa water was the best Australia and equal to any imported mineral table water, the company was anxious to register the word “Cooma”. But finding registration of a native word impossible, the coined Koomah was substituted and finally registered.

One of the 35 H.P., 3 ton delivery trucks used in Sydney in about 1914.

Left to right: 1) Blob top corks, Lemonade. 2) Hand applied crown cork seal soda water bottle and neck. 3) A similar specimen showing bottle filled, sealed and with labels. 4) Half size flat bottom Hamilton, Hamilton with miner and farmer trademark, this bottle was available in two sizes, full size and the rarer size. 5) Four way pour Codd, Ballarat, Melbourne, Katoomba, Sydney.

RUM. Jamaica is the original home of rum, where it was first recorded about 1600. It is believed that sugar cane was first introduced from the Azores by Christopher Columbus with the hot humid climate it proliferated. The sap of the cane plant (which is really a giant grass) is refined to produce sugar, and one of its by-products is molasses. Depending on distillery, either the molasses only, or the unrefined cane of molasses is fermented and distilled to produce a colourless spirit rum, like whisky, when matured in oak casks attains a colouring the cask. Sometimes caramel is also added to deepen the colour.

VODKA. Although Vodka originated in Poland, it is a national drink of Russia and has a history stretching back probably 1000 years. In 1546 it became Poland’s national drink and King Jan Olbracht passed a law permitting all citizens to distil and sell it. However in 1572 the country’s rulers gave the exclusive rights for its production and sale, and thus it became an important source of revenue for the Crown. But despite legal restraints, vodka making became a major illicit activity of the people.

Vodka is double distilled from a fermented mash of all grain thing. Usually wheat, corn, rye or barley is used, but potatoes are molasses or sugar beet is also used. Vodka is a pure spirit, i.e. with few congeners, that has been filtered through charcoal remove most of the flavours, then diluted to bottling strength with distilled water. Being a neutral spirit it does not require aging. Although usually unflavoured there are the flavoured vodkas to which herbs or fruit brandies have been added.

SCHNAPPS. Schnapps is a drink very similar to vodka, but I would believe that with gin they are very closely related, graphically they all are neighbours in origin, and their products very similar in that they are virtually pure alcohols with little in the way of congeners, but may be flavoured in the stages of production. Although a recognised style of spirit, it is now known by other names according to locality.

Akvavit had its origins about the year 1400 in Denmark now its national drink. Although also known as snaps or schnaps it is also known as Aalborg, the name of the akvavit capital mark. Most Danish akvavits are flavoured with caraway or look at each of the others.
However the lager house and ice work buildings still remain. During the remodelling, several of the Chinese graves were removed to the White Hills cemetery.

On 29 July 1971 Cohn Bros., Ltd recommended a take over proposal by I. & I. Pty Ltd which was successfully completed some months later.

A selection of modern bottles from the 1960s.

Crown seal ginger beer bottle, Bristol glazed/Bendigo Pottery.

Three screw metal top bottles from the 1960s.

Unusual two teardrop 13oz Codd bottle and rare corker beer.

One of the many varieties of EPNS trays given away by Cohn Bros.

Australian Antique Bottle Collector 24
peculiar to stone ginger beers. The 'nibs' on the lip had some kind of wire closure attached, although there has been no complete closure ever found. This bottle is white with a tan top and is 1 of 5 such bottles known. It was made by R. Fowler, Sydney.

7. & 8. E. Rowlands, started in Ballarat in 1854, expanded to Melbourne in 1873, Sydney 1884, Katoomba 1888, and opened a depot in Newcastle in 1890. The firm became a proprietary company in 1906. This bottle is all tan with a black stamp, with the well known 'miner & farmer' trademark.

9. E. Rowlands "Champagne" shape stone ginger beer, white body with tan top, bottle made by Bendigo Pottery. On the reverse side it has 'Rowlands' in large diagonal type.

John Van Tilburg, one of the club's assistant treasurers for about 2 years. His old house in Beverley Hills is now E. Fowler with the fig tree and Martin Carney at the interesting he found. John would never have discovered bottle collecting without coming in. Since that day John stone ginger beers, including C. Dunn, N. Dunn and now has a fabulous collection of stones, worthy of a museum.

Bottle Show

All members are reminded that their reminder remittances of $2 per foot.
Research Paper:

Cordial Manufacturers of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

Interviewee:

Mr. Ian Sherman.

Interviewer:

Lynette Jackson.

1. Newcastle Morning Herald, 6 June 1983.
2. Australian Cordial, Kaper and Brewer, 1921.
3. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
In the Hunter area companies such as N.S.W. Aerated Waters Pty. Ltd., Mullens Cordials Pty. Ltd. and Y Y Aerated Water Company Ltd. of Newcastle; Watson's Soft Drinks of Maitland, Hunter Valley Cordials Pty. Ltd. of Muswellbrook, Toronto Aerated Waters Pty. Ltd. of Toronto, Bacon and Sons Cordials Pty. Ltd. of Dungog, Alex Mather and Sons Pty. Ltd. of Singleton and Knipe Brothers Pty. Ltd. of Cessnock, have either disappeared or ceased making soft drinks and become distributors of soft drinks made on contract outside the Hunter.¹

Y.Y. Aerated Waters Pty. Ltd. began manufacturing cordials after the directors of the company purchased the well known concern of Healey Brothers at Newcastle.² The name of the company originated from the Maori expression "Wai Wai" meaning water, clear water, cool water or sweet water. The daughter of the company's first chairman, heard the words while honeymooning in New Zealand and suggested it would be a good name for the new company.³

The chairman of directors, Mr. J.E. Drysdale, said competition in the industry had got out of hand with the industry being dominated by multinational corporations⁴ The Y.Y. Company at Lambton ceased operations in August, 1983 after 63 years.⁵

The Elgin Street, Maitland, cordial manufacturer, R.F.Heads and Company, traded for almost 60 years.⁶ Mr. R.F.(Dick Snr.) Heads, founder of the factory, began business in a building more than 100 years old. He started the family business in 1925, taking over from the Wolstenholme family, which manufactured cordials and ice there.⁷ His son, Dick Jnr., succeeded him as head of the company, and when he died his widow, Mrs. Daphne Heads, took over.⁸

2. Australian Cordial Maker and Brewer. 1921
3. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
7. Ibid. 21 February 1980.
8. Ibid. 8 May 1980.
The family's third generation, Mr. Tony Heads, was more interested in music than cordials, and with the fact also that the business would have needed "thousands of dollars" worth of maintenance work to bring it up to the 1980 Health Commission Standards, the decision was to close up shop and Mrs. Heads retired. 9

Tony Heads described his grandfather's method of putting the bubbles into fizzy drinks. "In those days it was so slow to put carbon dioxide into soft drink. They'd pour sulphuric acid over limestone, gather the carbon dioxide and mix it with water," he said. 10

One of the items at the auction sale of equipment at Heads Cordial factory, although with more historical than commercial value, was a hand and foot operated bottle capper that still worked perfectly. "It is a little slow but could be a boom to the home bottler, suggested Mr. Tony Heads. 11

The Mullens Cordial Company of Hannell Street, Wickham, operated from the beginning of the century until the early 1960's. In the early days the Mullens company delivered soft drinks as far afield as Redhead, Toronto and Cardiff using horse and cart. "A trip out to Redhead and back used to take all day, but when we got trucks we went as far as Buladelah and Catherine Hill Bay delivering orders," said Mr. Cyril Mullens. 12

Mr. Patrick Joseph Mullens founded the business in 1908, and when he retired his two sons, Messrs. L.J. and C.J. Mullens continued to carry on in the highest traditions of the trade. 13 Mr. Cyril Mullens who rose to become general manager after he started with the company at the age of 13 as a 'carter's offsiders', said that in the 1930's a 26oz bottle of soft drink cost 6d and a split could be bought at school tuckshops for 3d. He said that prices rose during and after World War II. Mr. Mullens said the buildings used by the company were still on the site and in use as an upholstery and panel-beating shop. 14

10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
In 1950, the National Bottling Company, Newcastle Pty. Ltd. acquired one of the oldest soft drink making businesses in the State. The business was A.F. Moore's in Darby Street, Newcastle, which has been owned and conducted by the same family for three generations.\(^\text{15}\)

Mr. George Moore came to Australia from England and settled with his family in Maitland. He was educated and on leaving school entered the same trade as his father, a baker and confectioner. He was appointed manager and six years later he became proprietor of the business. At that time the factory was the largest north of Newcastle.\(^\text{16}\) In 1867 he came to Newcastle, establishing a cordial manufacturing business for himself, and nine years later purchased the site on which he erected his factory opposite his old works.\(^\text{17}\)

A few years later he handed the business over to his son, Mr. A.F. Moore. He died in 1922 and the business passed to his three sons, Messrs Fred, Cecil and Frank Moore. They were assisted in their business by their sister, Miss Florence Moore.\(^\text{18}\) When the National Bottling Company took over the three brothers left their factory with an assortment of bottles, some more than 70 years old. The bottles were of various shapes and sizes, and representative of bottles used by the firm down the years. Some were made for a cork to be wired down. Others, which had marbles or other stoppers in them, were filled upside-down so they would be sealed by the gas forcing the marbles or stoppers against a rubber ring. These bottles were not popular with soft-drink makers because children broke them to get the marbles.\(^\text{19}\)

\(^{15}\) Newcastle Morning Herald. 3 January 1950.
\(^{17}\) Aldine Centennial History of N.S.W. 1888.
\(^{19}\) Newcastle Morning Herald. 3 January 1950.
Knipe Brothers of Cessnock was one of the last cordial manufacturers to cease trading. A family business, it operated in Cessnock for sixty five years. Matt and George Knipe formed a partnership and commenced trading as Knipe Brothers Aerated Waters. After the death of Mr. Matt Knipe, his son Harold took over the management of the business in conjunction with Mr. George Knipe.

Harold's sons incorporated the business as a proprietary company after he died and George retired. Mr. John Knipe became managing director and a distributing company was formed with Kevin Knipe, managing director and Noel Knipe as sales manager.

At its peak Knipe's employed 24 people, working 2 shifts, producing up to 2,000 dozen bottles of cordial a day.

During their period of trading Knipe Brothers was one of more than 100 soft drink bottlers in Australia who worked with Cottee's Limited. Cottee's is one of Australia's largest soft drink producers and the only wholly-owned Australian company producing soft drink on a national basis. Under the Franchise agreement, Knipe Brothers, manufactured and distributed Cottee's drinks over a wide area centred on Cessnock. Before its closure the business acted mainly as a warehouse, sub-contracting bottling and other processes.

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