



The Ohio Swirl

The Newsletter of the Ohio Bottle Club

June 2020



Calendar of Events

June 25, 2020	Canceled
July 30, 2020	Please read "Tentative July meeting"
August 27, 2020	TBD
September 24, 2020	TBD
September 29, 2020	Strongsville, Canceled
October 2-3, 2020	Mansfield Antique Bottle Show and Sale



2020 Officers

PRESIDENT	Alan DeMaison	440-796-7539	a.demaison@sbcgloal.net
VICE PRESIDENT	John Fifer	330-461-0069	coinop1958@gmail.com
TREASURER	Phyllis Koch	330-644-0274	phylkoch@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Marlene Franchino	440-666-7278	jfranchino@wowway.com
SWIRL EDITOR	Alan DeMaison	440-358-1223	a.demaison@sbcgloal.net
LIBRARIAN	David Keding	330-635-7649	keding@zoominternet.net
MANSFIELD	Matt Lacy	440-228-1873	info@antiquebottlesales.com
STRONGSVILLE	Louis Fifer	330-635-1964	fiferlouis@yahoo.com
WEBSITE	Rick Baldwin		rsbaldwin@att.net

Meetings

***Canceled for the foreseeable future. See "Tentative July Meeting"

The OBC meetings are held the **LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH** (except when noted) at the **EAGLES CLUB, 9953 Rittman Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281**. Doors open at around 6 pm with the meetings starting at 7 pm.

President's Message

The OBC will entertain the possibility of hold a July meeting. Please read "Tentative July Meeting" on the next page for more information. We will error on the side of safety, but we should have a few meeting in order to plan for the October Mansfield Show.

A few concerns about the OBC and finances. We have reduced the cost of the Swirl so that the membership dues cover the cost of printing and mailing. We started 2019 with a balance of \$11, 300.79 and ended the year with \$15,173.65. We are in a great position to weather the covid-19 storm.

I could use some articles to help me. A few items are coming in but I need more. We will need some volunteers for the Mansfield show. I'm sure Matt & Louis will soon began sharing their needs.

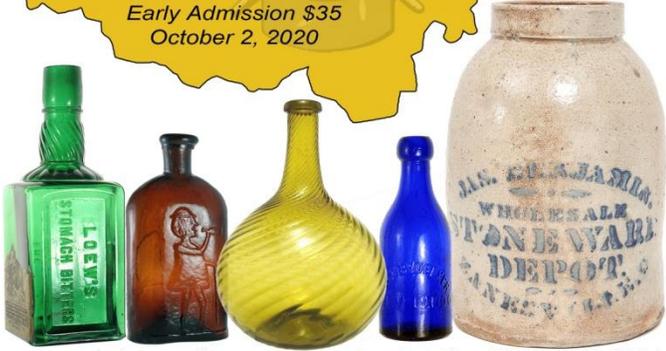
The Ohio Bottle Club
Presents

NEW DATE
For this year only

the **42nd**
MANSFIELD
ANTIQUÉ BOTTLE
SHOW

Richland County Fairgrounds
Saturday, October 3, 2020
9AM to 2PM
General Admission \$5

Early Admission \$35
October 2, 2020



Matt Lacy (440) 228-1873
info@antiquebottlesales.com

Louis Fifer (330) 635-1964
fiferlouis@yahoo.com

ohiobottleclub.org

What is it?



Please call/text 440-796-7539 or email <a.demaison@sbcglobal.net> your guess to Alan. The winner of a drawing from all the correct responses will receive \$10.

Last month's winner of \$10 was, drum roll please, Phil Soehrlen . The correct items last month was a toaster that could be used camping or on the stovetop. .

Tentative July Meeting

I am asking that all members that would attend a July meeting to reserve a place by calling/texting/emailing Alan at 440-796-7539 or <a.demaison@sbcglobal.net> or John Fifer at 330-461-0069 or <coinop1958@gmail.com>.

Tentative July meeting;

- July 30, 2020 at 7 PM inside or outside, both available (August picnic)
- Tables are already spaced for social distancing and we will set up chairs accordingly.
- Refreshments will be cookies furnished by the club and all food & drinks will be served by a club member wear gloves. Packets of sugar and creamer will be provided.
- Hand sanitizer will be at the door as you come in.
- Face masks are encouraged for the protection of others.
- Program will be "Your latest purchases"
- The microphone will be cleaned after every use.
- There will be no bottle raffle or name tag drawing.

We are usually attended by about 45 members. I need those that would attend to call or write. Please comment on my attempt to make members feel somewhat safe.

You must call before July 7th to reserve your spot.

Cleveland's Matt Hinkel Brought Booze and Boxing

By Jack Sullivan (Special to the Ohio Swirl)

The rise of Mathias J. "Matt" Hinkel (Fig. 1) from twelve-year-old office boy in Cleveland to nationally known millionaire sportsman, boxing promoter and prizefight referee was a phenomenon founded on the sale of alcohol. From 1892 to 1919, Hinkel's prosperous wholesale trade in wines and "jobber of fine whiskey" made possible his forays into baseball, horse racing, and particularly boxing as well as his financing other local businesses.

Born in Cleveland in 1867, Hinkel was the son of Catherine (Sauer) and Jacob Hinkel, both immigrants from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. Although

Jacob's occupation in the 1880 census was given as "merchant," he may not have been a successful one.

Matt was forced to quit school at 12 years old and go to work as an office boy for Edward, Townsend & Company, a major Cleveland wholesale grocery and liquor emporium (Fig. 2).



MATT J. HINKEL

Edwards, Townsend & Co.,

WHOLESALE

GROCERIES AND LIQUORS,

139 and 141 Water, and 320, 322 and 324 Spring.

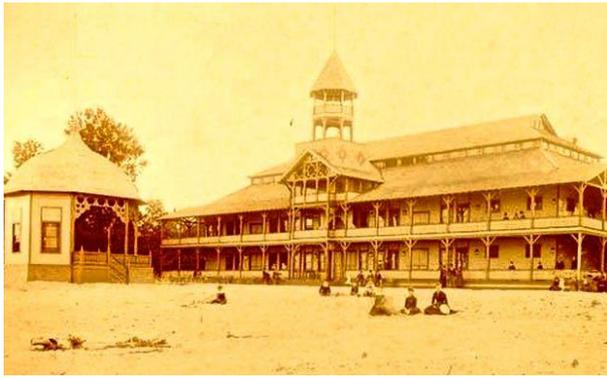
According to a biographer, "...By close attention to business and faithfulness and diligence [Hinkel] rose to the position of manager of their liquor department." Because Edwards, Townsend relied heavily on liquor sales, Hinkel became a key company executive while still in his teens. After toiling for the grocery chain for more than a decade, Hinkel opened his own liquor house at 461 Pearl Avenue in 1892. This move may have been triggered by his 1889 marriage to Minerva Marie, "Minnie" Willschlager (1870-1927). The couple would produce three children, two girls and a boy. With a growing family Matt likely felt the need for more income.

Under Hinkel's adept managerial hand, his liquor business grew and flourished. The need for more space apparently prompted a move to 1778 25th Street in 1906 and subsequently and finally in 1909 to 814-820 Prospect Avenue SE. It is difficult to assess Hinkel's marketing strategies. He apparently did not advertise widely and artifacts from his trade are few. Despite the size of his operation, the *Ohio Bottle Book* does not record a single whiskey bottle bearing his name.

I have been able only to locate a metal jug engraved "Hinkel's Rye," (Fig. 3) the artifact that first put me onto the track of this whiskey man's story. The jug likely was meant for use on a bar where it would have held water or tea for "cutting" whiskey. Silverplated and engraved, it was a relatively expensive item that was given away to saloons and restaurants carrying Hinkel's brands.

When and how Hinkel honed his passion for sports is unclear. His first foray seems to have been into baseball. In 1912, he sponsored an amateur team known as Matt Hinkel's Champions. When offered a chance to have a professional franchise in the newly formed Columbia League, he jumped at it, hiring a manager and negotiating a contract with the owner of Luna Park on the outskirts of Cleveland for the erection of a 20,000 seat baseball stadium. When the new league imploded without a single game being played, Hinkel must have been devastated, but retained his interest in baseball, befriending the great Ty Cobb and becoming his hunting partner.





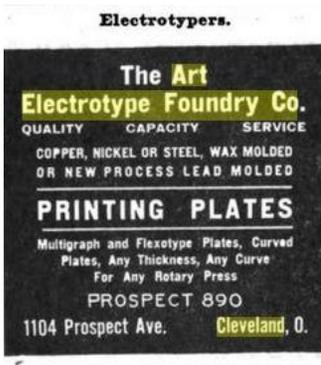
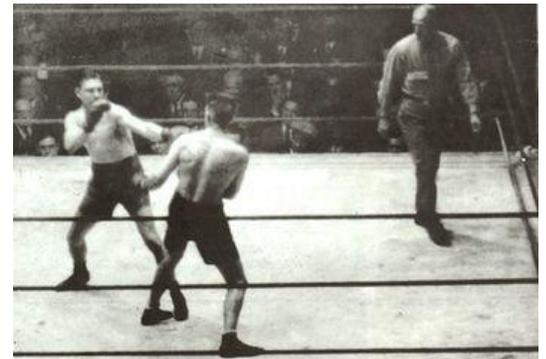
Hinkel would make his mark in fisticuffs, gaining recognition as both an impresario of boxing matches and a referee. His breakout event was arranging a 15-round featherweight championship bout on Labor Day 1916 at Cedar Point, (Fig. 4).



The match pitted Johnny Kilbane (Fig. 5), the titleholder and Cleveland native, and George Chaney (Fig. 6) of Baltimore, called “The Knockout King of Fistiania.” The *Plain Dealer* opined: “Twenty thousand American dollars must pass through the gates of Cedar Point...before...[the bout] is a financial success.” The crowds came and watched their Local Hero dispatch Chaney in three rounds.



Shown here (Fig. 7) is Hinkel refereeing perhaps the most famous bout of his ring career. Held at the Olympic Arena in Brooklyn, Ohio, the 1924 fight drew national attention as Harry Greb (left), the world’s middleweight champion, fought Gene Tunney, the American light-heavyweight champion. Two years earlier Greb had given Tunney, later world heavyweight champion, the only defeat of his career. The rematch went ten rounds, called a “see-saw” affair, and the judges declared it a no-decision. Hinkel told the press that if he had been permitted to vote he would have declared the contest a draw.



A newspaper in Edmonton Canada identified Hinkel as Cleveland’s “millionaire boxing referee.” A Duluth, Minnesota, daily hailed him as “one of the best ring arbiters in the country.” Sportswriters around the country regarded him as a guru on the fight game and hung on his words. Despite the rigors of running his liquor business and promoting the fight game, Hinkel had the energy to manage other Cleveland enterprises. He was president and treasurer of the Art Electrotpe Foundry Company, an outfit that made printing plates (Fig. 8). He also was president and treasurer of the Smith Form-a-Truck Company, an early entry into the burgeoning automotive field, and was vice president of the Arts Photo Paper Company.

With the coming of statewide prohibition, Hinkel was forced to shut down his liquor house in 1919 after 27 years in business. By this time he was 52 years old and could rely on his other enterprises for activity and revenue. Moreover, the ensuing years would be among his most active in the fight game. He was living at the Hollenden Hotel, then Cleveland’s downtown luxury hostelry (Fig. 9). With Repeal in 1934 Hinkel did not revive his



Cleveland liquor house, possibly because of declining health. On September 19, 1936, he suffered a heart attack and died. He was interred in the Lake Park Cemetery, Rocky River (Fig. 10).



From a 12-year-old office boy, Matt Hinkel had risen to the ranks of Ohio millionaires by dint of his intelligence, hard work, and chosen occupation selling liquor. Perhaps more important, he had helped put Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio in the front ranks of America's sports by his promotion of championship boxing matches.

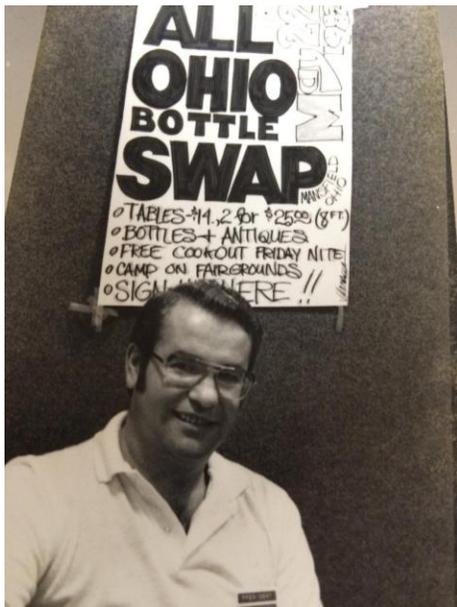
Note: Two principal sources for this article were brief biographies in "Men of Ohio" issued in 1914 by the *Cleveland Leader* and *Cleveland News* and "A History of Cleveland and Its Environs," authored by Elroy McKendree Avery and issued in 1918 by Lewis Publishing Co.

Treasurer's Report June

Beginning Balance as of 5/13/2020 \$3,873.13

Income		Expenses	
1 renewal	\$20	May Swirl ck#1241	\$243.00
		Ken Arthur "What is it?" winner ck#1242	\$10.00
Total Income	\$20	Total Expenses	\$253.00
Ending Balance as of 6/8 /2020		\$3640.13	

Blast from the Past



Recognize this guy? Adam Koch has been a fixture in the Midwest bottle hobby and particularly the Ohio Bottle Club for close to 50 years.

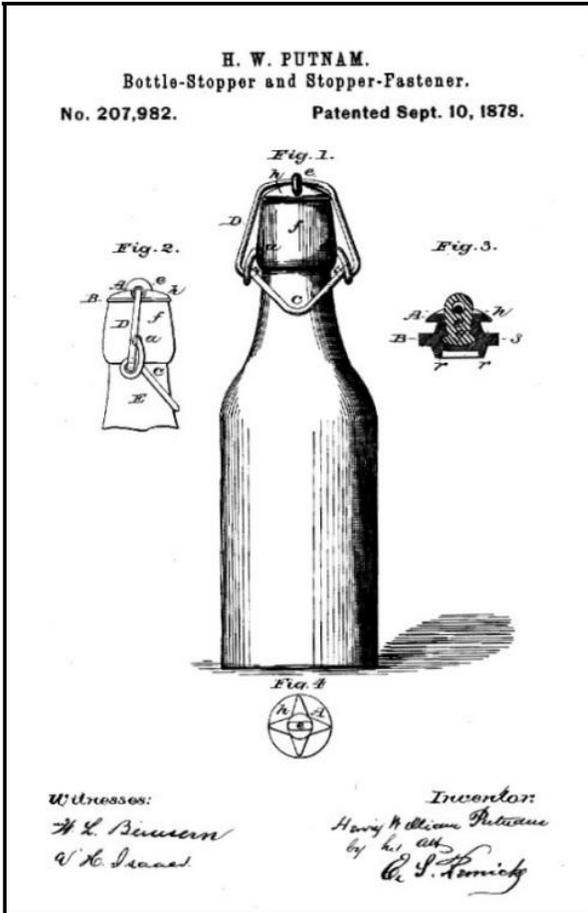
Adam has used his experience to chairman Columbus 15 times, Mansfield 12 times, our Fall show 3 times and 3 Nationals. Quite a resume!

Two shows will always be close to my heart. Toledo 92! It was advertised as a show not to miss and they were right. I had never seen anything like that show, fantastic displays organized by Doc Ford and a hall filled with tables of bottles. Seemed like a million. I was like a kid in a candy shop. I was running from table to table looking for a great scroll flask and they were there, but you didn't dare walk away. Many a great color was sold before I got back to them.

The FOHBC National was in Cincinnati the same weekend as my son's wedding. A warning from my son, don't think about it! Fortunately, while the girls got their hair done, I found the time.

Lightning fruit Jars

Looking for a relatively inexpensive bottle category, consider fruit jars. A very nice collection of colored Lightning jars awaits your discovery. Fruit Jars offer a wide variety of interesting closures and are very collectible.



Born on September 1, 1825, at Essex, New York, Henry William Putnam was not involved with bottles or jars for many years. He traveled to California in the 1840s and sold drinking water to gold miners. Returning, he was involved in various businesses until he seriously entered the glass container field with his 1859 patent for a wire arrangement that held a cork in place after it had been forced into the mouth of a bottle. The device was simple and efficient – and could be reused. He received a reissue for the same fastener in 1864. Putnam would begin producing this bottle fastener in Bennington, VT in 1864. As with most patents, a simple modification to improve the product would result in another patent. The world of beer and soda closures was very competitive at this time. Before 1864 Putnam was already producing his other inventions, a washing machine wringer and double pointed carpet tacks in Cleveland.

In 1882, Henry William Putnam of Bennington, Vermont, invented a fruit jar that used a glass lid and a metal clamp to hold the lid in place. These "Lightning jars" became popular because no metal (which could rust, breaking the seal or contaminating the food) contacted the food and the metal clamps made the lids themselves easier to seal and remove (hence the "Lightning" name).

Putnam's invention used the basic design of his 1878 patent and the earlier de Quillfeldt patent No. 7,722 from June 5, 1877 to adapt the Lightning finish to wide-mouth containers. Putnam had two factories (for stoppers and other inventions) and a major sales office in New York. He never made glass, although he sold bottles and jars along with his stoppers.



The New York sales office – the only location noted in ads that we can find – was at 18 Platt St. in 1864 and 1865. However, a January 1, 1878, brochure gave Putnam’s address as 108 Chambers St., New York, and he used this address in his ads for bottle and jar stoppers until at least 1921. Only the office address appeared in ads for the stoppers and Lightning jars – never the factory locations at Cleveland, Ohio, and Bennington, Vermont. Putnam retired in 1898.

KARL HUTTER'S
 PATENT LIGHTNING
BOTTLE STOPPERS,
 Also Lager Beer, Weiss Beer, Soda
 and Ginger Ale Bottles, best quality.
 Special attention paid to orders
 with name blown in the bottles.
 A LARGE SELECTION OF BOTTLERS'
 SUPPLIES.



Lightning Fruit Jars.
 The best in use; unequalled in dura-
 bility, and sure and simple fastening

KARL HUTTER,
 185 Bowery, New York.



Between 1859 and 1880, 6 different patents were granted for bottle stoppers. Four were for Putnam, one for a Karl Hutter and one for a guy Hutchinson. Hutter later began to market his Lightning closures in the late 1800's.



FOHBC Virtual Museum

The FOHBC Virtual Museum is currently adding the Ralph Finch target ball collection. You can still visit the VM for free. Visit <fohbcvirtualmuseum.org> and click on “FREE ENTRY!”



Ohio Bottle Club
1605 Clipper CV
Painesville, OH 44077

Forwarding Requested
Correction Requested

MEETING

June Canceled

I will need pictures &
notes for “What’s on your
mind” and “What is it?”
for next month!!

Visit us at <ohiobottleclub.org>



The Ohio Swirl

The Newsletter of the Ohio Bottle Club

June 2020



Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

What do you collect? _____

Annual dues are \$20.00 per year. This includes your family (regardless of size) to participate in our regular meeting, activities and receive the monthly newsletter.

Send a \$20 check to Ohio Bottle Club, % Phyllis Koch, 763 Jolson Ave., Akron, OHIO 44319