



The WHITTLEMARK

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES HISTORICAL BOTTLE CLUB
FIFTH CHARTER MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS

MAY 1998

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By John Swearingen.

As I sit down to write this message, I can't believe how fast this year is going. We are into the start of spring and already have day light saving time. All indications are that it will be a good year.

We had our annual auction at the last meeting. Our treasurer Maxine Hanna reports that the club made over \$600 dollars. Thank you very much for the generosity of those who attended. I do know that those who were there had a good time.

As your president I am disappointed in the lack of attendance of the general membership at meetings and events like the auction. The auction and other events need the support of the club's members.

Our board meeting will be at Alex and Carolyn Kerr's home. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th and will be a pot luck. Carolyn said she has a great recipe for Lasagna. For those of you who plan to attend and have the last names start-

ing with "A" through "K", please bring a salad or a side dish. The rest of the alphabet, "J" through "Z" please concentrate on some tasty deserts for the group. If you need more information or directions please call me at home (805) 492-5036 or at work (818) 373-5923.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the May meeting should be a good one. Dave Kyle will be our guest speaker and he will share his extensive collection of Warner Safe Cures. The members only bottle will be a very nice purple Barber's Bottle. Speaking of "Members Only Bottles" that will be the theme for the show and tell. Members Only Bottles of the past, so, round up your favorites (that you have won in the past) and the story that goes with them. We will be looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Thanks,

John.

Remember: The Date of our Meeting is May 14th., the Second Thursday of the Month!

*Los Angeles Historical
Bottle Club*



1998 Board



President: John Swearingen 805/492-5036.

First Vice President (Programs):
Open

Second Vice President (Membership):
Dick Homme 818/362-3368.

Secretary: Patt Blauvelt 818/332-6751.

Treasurer: Maxine Hanna 626/441-1627.

Librarian: Bob Cheney 626/443-4446.

Newsletter Editors:
Dave & Esther Hinson 805/946-2051.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CLUB: To socially unite the bottle collectors of Los Angeles County and to promote, foster and encourage all legal activities toward the betterment of bottle collecting. We encourage the exchanging of information and the exhibiting, promoting and researching of bottles and related collectibles.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held at 7:00 P.M., the second Thursday of each month at Glendale Federal Bank, Carillon Room (basement) — 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA. (North of Colorado Blvd.) Cost of membership is \$15.00 year. Please see application on the reverse cover for membership information.

Opinions expressed in *The Whittlemark* are those solely of the editors or others who contribute editorial and other material to the newsletter. These opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the members. Any corrections or comments should be addressed to Dave and Esther Hinson at the Whittlemark.

For information about the **Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors** write to Kent Williams, 1835 Oak Terrace, Newcastle, CA 95658.

This newsletter won third place in the 1991 and 1995 FOHBC national newsletter contests, an honorable mention in the 1992 national newsletter contest and second place in the 1993 and 1996 national newsletter contests.



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 1998 MEETING.

Sorry, but the minutes of the last meeting had not been received at the Whittlemark even as late as May 6. Therefore, I think it is safe to assume we're not getting any this month. In their place is a thought gleaned from the Internet about bottle collecting.

THE APPEAL OF OLD BOTTLES

"I was recently thinking of what draws me to old bottles. Part of the appeal is the glass. Even more is that it was glass with a purpose. Not meant to sit on a coffee table or in a window, these bottles were produced to contain something that made a person's life better. Food, medicine, (often mostly alcohol), fire extinguisher, ink, whatever. Back to the glass part. There is something irreversible about glass. You drop a bottle on a concrete floor, and it is broken forever. So there is something sacred about this piece of history that has survived for over 100 years. Each bottle has a tale to tell, but which will never be known. There is something magical about this tale. It was produced by hand in a hot sweaty factory and carries the signature of its makers skill. Eventually, it got filled

with something and found its way onto a store shelf. Who bought it, what ailment did they dream of curing with this elixir? I think of a scared Union soldier taking what might be his last gulp of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters before facing Prickett's charge. Maybe that bottle of Kilmer's Swamp root cure helped ease the pain of someone deathly ill, at least putting their mind at ease. After surviving this journey, the bottle was discarded down the out-house hole, or in the woods. It lies there while the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II happen. Through Korea, IKE, Nixon, Kennedy... Then it gets hit with a shovel. It survives. But wait, it emerges from the hole, and gets a bath. Now I stare at it and wonder... Now it begins a new life with a lot of its buddies at a BOTTLE SHOW. Like a fantastic family reunion. Changing owners, going through the US mail, on airplanes. Surely more dangerous than sitting in the ground. Maybe I've stared at bottles too long..."

Dr. Paul Daniell <http://www.wwinter.net/~doodle/#appeal>

ATTENTION CLUB

MEMBERS

DUES ARE

DUE!

Announcements



WARNER'S /
SAFE / KIDNEY
& LIVER / CURE
/ ROCHESTER,
N.Y. Amber pint
Left-Handed
Amber glass, height
9 1/2", pint size,
BIM with double
collar top, smooth
plain base,
embossed picture
of safe is hinged on
the left which is
much rarer than
the right-hinged
safe versions, near
mint condition.
Photo from:
<[http://
www.ipass.net/
~rlynch/bottles/
warners.html](http://www.ipass.net/~rlynch/bottles/warners.html)>
Reggie's Warners
Page.

PROGRAM AND THEME FOR MAY

As John mentioned in the last newsletter, the May meeting will be a good one. **Dave Kyle** will be our guest speaker and he will share his extensive collection of **Warner Safe Cures**.

The members only bottle will be a very nice purple Barber's Bottle.

Speaking of "Members Only Bottles" that will be the theme for the show and tell. Members Only Bottles of the past, so, round up your favorites (that you have won in the past) and the story that goes with them.

RUN AN AD IN THE WHITTLEMARK

A great Spring resolution. Run an ad in your newsletter, the Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club's Whittlemark. The cost is reasonable, only five cents a word with a \$2.00 minimum. An ad in the Whittlemark will benefit both your collection and the club.

THE WHITTLEMARK NEEDS ARTICLES

The Whittlemark needs articles! No article is too large or too small. If you have a great find or tall tale to tell, drop us a line. We are especially interested in serious research articles and book reports. Research articles should be properly footnoted. **Deadline** to submit an article is the last Thursday of the month.



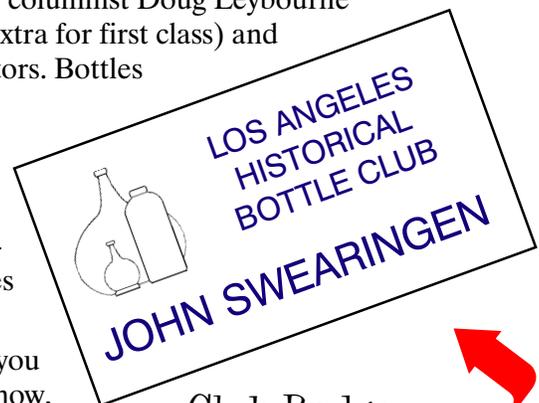
BOTTLES AND EXTRAS

Bottles and Extras magazine, published monthly by the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors of which the club is a member. (To see a copy, please check with the club's librarian.) The magazine features bottle, stoneware, trade cards, regional news, national news, and features fruit jar columnist Doug Leybourne (author of the Red Book of Fruit Jars #8. \$20 per year U.S.A. (\$15 extra for first class) and includes a membership to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. *Bottles and Extras*, 88 Sweetbriar Branch, Longwood, Florida 32750-2783.

CLUB BADGES

If you are interested in buying a club badge, call the acting treasurer Maxine Hanna or talk to Maxine at the next meeting. Club badges are a great way to promote the club and show your pride.

Remember, if you wear your club badge to the next meeting, you will receive two tickets for the member's only drawing. As you all know, one does not want to miss his or her chance at one of the great bottles offered at each meeting!



Club Badge.

Get yours today!

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A GUIDE FOR NEW BOTTLE COLLECTORS

Bottle collecting as a hobby has been around for many years, but in the early 1960s the number of collectors grew rapidly with the formation of bottle clubs and organized bottle shows. Many books have been written about bottles over the years. Unfortunately, the books are becoming as collectable as the bottles themselves. The cost of producing a book has become so expensive that very few are written or even reprinted any more. Hopefully this simple guide will help future collectors gain a basic understanding of the hobby. Please feel free to download, print and copy this guide for other new collectors. If you would like to see additional pictures of bottles check our web page, **Larry's Antiques & Bottles**, at <http://www.tdl.com/~larrym49>. ENJOY and happy hunting. (Larry is Larry Mauch of the Golden Gate Historical Bottle Society. Thanks Larry for letting us use your article in this month's Whittlemark.)

There are many ways to collect bottles. Some people collect only certain colors, others may collect certain shapes. Usually collectors specialize in certain types of bottles; for example, ink bottles, soda bottles, etc. Below are some of the more common types collected.

BARBER BOTTLES: Barber bottles were bottles used by the barber shops to dispense hair tonics and lotions. These bottles were also used in the home for the same purpose. These bottles usually have long necks and are very colorfully decorated. Barber bottles are usually in the hundred to several hundred dollar price range.

BEER BOTTLES: Beer bottles make an interesting collection because many of the bottles from the turn of the century are embossed with the proprietor's name and the city they were established. The majority of the beer bottles were amber in color, but some other colors do exist. As a rule of thumb, the shorter lived the brewery the rarer the bottle. Collecting bottles from the various cities can lead

to a rather large collection. Many beer bottles are still relatively inexpensive, in the five to twenty five dollar range.

BITTERS BOTTLES: Bitters bottles have become one of the most popular categories of bottle collecting. Bitters was usually gin with some herbs added and sold as a medicinal product. Bitters was one of the more expensive medicines offered for sale. Consequently, the bottles came in a wide variety of shapes and colors, making an interesting display for a collection. The rarer and more unique colors and shaped bottles have become quite valuable, costing up to thousands of dollars. However, there still are some inexpensive bitters bottles.

DRUG STORE BOTTLES: Many druggists around the turn of the century had bottles embossed with the name of their store and the city it was located in. They would fill these bottles with drugs, oils, medicines and other products they had bought in bulk containers. It is possible to find drug store bottles from almost any city in various sizes. Although most were clear in color, brown, green and some blue bottles are available. Drug store

bottles are still inexpensive and could make a rather large collection. Drug store bottles would be a good starting point for beginning collectors.

FOOD BOTTLES: Food bottles cover a wide range of bottles. The earlier bottles are the more collectable (pre 1910). Flavoring extract bottles, pickle bottles and tomato bottles are examples of food categories. Many of these bottles are still relatively inexpensive and would make an interesting collection for a new collector.

FRUIT JARS: Fruit jars (or canning jars) are a popular category for collecting. There are some very interesting colors and some are quite rare. The colored jars can cost hundreds of dollars.

HISTORICAL FLASKS: Historical flasks are one of the oldest categories of collecting. These bottles usually held alcohol and were produced in the mid 1800s. They are called historical flasks because many had figures of famous men or events embossed on the sides of the bottles. Be careful, as many have been reproduced over the years and are now being sold in antique shops. George Washington is one of the most common reproductions. A historical flask can cost anywhere from a hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. Some very rare examples have sold for as much as \$15,000-\$20,000.

INK BOTTLES: Ink bottles are very collectable because of the wide range of colors and shapes, especially the ink bottles produced prior to 1880. Aqua is the most common color produced after that time. Earlier bottles come in puce, green, blue, amber and other colors. The more attractive the bottle the more it is usually worth. Inks can cost from two dollars to several thousand dollars depending on color and rarity.

INSULATORS: Insulators, although not really bottles are included here because they are a popular collecting field and are often seen at bottle shows. Insulators were used on telegraph and telephone poles to insulate the wires from the poles. Insulators come in many colors,



Beers come in several sizes. Shown are quart, pint and split (half pint). Beers can be found from many cities. Using a water soluble paint to highlight the lettering helps to display them better.

green being the most common. Some insulators come in strange shapes and are quite unique. Some of the earliest insulators, circa mid 1800s, come in very unique colors and are quite valuable. Insulators like inks, can cost several dollars to several thousands of dollars.

MILK BOTTLES: Milk bottles, like drug store bottles, can be found from almost every city. Earlier bottles were embossed with the dairy's name and city. Later bottles, after the late 1940s, were stenciled or painted rather than embossed. The embossed bottles are usually more expensive. A milk bottle collection can become quite large at a moderate cost.

MEDICINE BOTTLES: Medicine bottles are different from drug store bottles in that they were produced by the original product manufacturer usually with the manufacturer's and product's name embossed in the bottle. Prior to 1906 and the formation of the Food And Drug Administration, medicines could claim to cure anything they wanted, so the product names can be quite interesting. Blood Purifiers and Kidney Cures, just to name a few, are common claims for medicines. Medicine bottles can cost anywhere from one dollar to several hundred dollars.



Bitters come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. The more unusual the color the better. These are more common examples.

Most medicines are aqua in color, but amber and some other colors can be found. Recently more collectors are trying to collect these bottles with the original labels.

SODA BOTTLES: Up until about 1940 many cities had a soda water manufacturer in town. Many bottles made before the turn of the century had the manufacturer's name and city embossed right on the bottle. Some bottles made before the 1880s came in shades of green and blue. Later bottles were usually aqua. Soda bottles come in several styles depending on their age. Generally the earlier bottles, pre 1880, are referred to as blob top sodas, then came hutch sodas and around 1903 came the traditional crown top soda still used today. If you're ever at a bottle show, ask a dealer with soda bottles on his table to show you the different types. Soda bottle prices vary greatly depending on age. Early colored examples can run several hundred dollars. The later crown top sodas generally run one to ten dollars.

WHISKEY BOTTLES: Whiskey bottles are usually brown in color. Bottles that are collected are usually embossed with the proprietor's name and the city. Like most bottles the shorter period of time a company was in business the fewer examples of a bottle are known. Consequently, the value of the bottles goes up. Whiskies, like other bottles with the loca-



Drug Store bottles can be found with almost any city embossed on the side. Most are clear in color. These make an interesting collection and are relatively inexpensive.

tion embossed on them, are usually collected by region or state. Some collectors specialize in a specific proprietor. Whiskies usually can cost anywhere from twenty dollars to several hundred dollars depending on the scarcity of the bottle. The older and rarer, applied top whiskies can run several thousand dollars.

Bottle prices, like anything else, are determined by supply and demand. Several factors, though, tend to make a bottle more desirable. Below is an explanation of some of these.

COLOR: Eye appeal is always a major factor in most collectibles. Bottles, when displayed in a window or when back lit, can be very striking if they are colorful. Clear and aqua, followed by amber, are the most common colors found in bottles. But glass was obviously made in many colors. Colored glass was more expensive to produce than plain glass. If you were a manufacturer of drink or medicine, the cost of colored glass only added cost to a product that was supposed to be con-



Medicines come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The names and claims of the products make this an interesting collection. Medicines are still relatively inexpensive.

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sumed; in most cases the bottle was discarded. But in some cases you needed your product shielded from light; amber glass was relatively inexpensive so that was the next choice. Consequently, bottles that are found in other colors tend to bring higher prices.

SCARCITY: Owning an old bottle is really owning a piece of history. Many of the embossed bottles over the years have been researched by collectors. The history of the proprietor has been documented in books that now are themselves scarce. The less time a proprietor was in business the less bottles he produced, affecting their scarcity. The older a bottle the scarcer it tends to be as the number produced in the beginning may be less than when the proprietor gained popularity. The proprietor also may have changed the design of his bottle as his business grew. Some of these variants can be scarcer than others. Most people do not realize the amount of research that has been done on old bottles! One of the advantages of joining a bottle club is not only the fun of sharing a hobby with others but the access to information that may not be readily available otherwise.



Milks, like drug store bottles can be found with almost any city embossed or painted on the sides. Again, these are relatively inexpensive.

APPEARANCE: Bottles with unique shapes, lots of embossing, characters embossed on them (animals, buildings, plants, etc.) or crude in design tend to be more collectable. Original labels also add to a bottle's character and value.

CONDITION: The condition of a bottle affects its value much the same way as condition affects any piece of glass. Cracks and chips will lower the value considerably. The more the defect lowers the display quality, the more it lowers the value. Haze and cloudiness can sometimes be removed by cleaning the bottle, which adds extra cost. Cracks and chips are more permanent.

DATING BOTTLES: The process of manufacturing bottles has changed over the years. As mentioned above, the older the bottle chances are the more it's worth. The different processes in manufacturing will leave different marks that can be helpful in dating a bottle.

PONTIL MARKS: Early on most bottles were hand blown much the way art glass is blown today by many local glass blowers. Until about 1860 the glass blower would blow the bottom of a bottle first and apply a glass rod to the bottom while the glass was still hot so it would stick. Then he could hold the bottle and rotate it while he applied the neck. When he was finished, he would break off the glass rod from the

bottom. This process left a jagged piece of glass on the bottom that later would be ground off in better bottles but left untouched in common everyday bottles. If you turn over a bottle and the pontil mark (jagged glass) has been ground off then this is referred to as a **POLISHED PONTIL**. If the bottom was not ground, then you will see the **PONTIL** mark. In the 1860s some glass blowers started using an iron rod instead of the glass rod. This process didn't leave the jagged glass you had to remove but it did leave an iron residue on the bottom that would often rust with time. This residue is referred to as an **IRON PONTIL** mark. Even if the residue is cleaned off, the bottom of the bottle has a round indentation that identifies it as produced with an iron rod. Iron pontils appeared only a short time in the 1860s. By the 1870s both glass and iron pontil rods were no longer used on bottles.

MOLD LINES: Metal molds were used to produce bottles from the early 1800s until the early 1900s by glass blowers. These molds were in two or more



Sodas come in several types. From left to right; Blob Top soda, Hutchinson soda and Crown Top soda. Colored sodas are escalating in price, but the others can still be found at a reasonable price.



Whiskies come in several shapes. Most are amber in color. Shown here are a quart (the larger size) and a flask. These bottles come with a variety of logos embossed in the sides. Whiskies can cost from ten dollars to several hundred dollars. Early applied top whiskies (pre 1890) can cost as much as several thousand dollars.

The Event Calendar

pieces that were hinged together. The top of the mold was open so the glass blower could access the mold to blow in the glass. Consequently the molds were usually constructed with the shape of the bottle from the shoulders down without the necks. The necks and tops of the bottles had to be added later in a separate process. After the bottle was blown into the mold, the mold was opened to remove the bottle. Mold lines can usually be seen on the sides of a bottle stopping somewhere near both sides of the neck and going all the way around the bottom of the bottle. After the invention of the Automatic Bottle Machine in 1903, which also uses molds, the entire bottle was manufactured in the mold including the top. The mold lines no longer stop at the neck on these bottles. (The Automatic Bottle Machine was not universally used until the 1920s.)

COLOR: With the exception of beers, whiskies, wines and bitters (products that contained alcohol), most disposable bottles produced before 1900 were aqua (very light greenish or bluish glass). This was the least expensive glass to buy. Clear glass was more expensive because it required a better-controlled process. After 1910 or so clear glass became the new standard.

CRUDENESS: Pre 1900 bottles tend to appear more crude because of air bubbles and the thickness of the glass near the bottom of the bottle. For the most part, the manufacturing of bottles was considered one of the least expensive and most massed produced uses of glass. It wasn't until the introduction of the Automatic Bottle Machine that bottles became more uniform and consistent in their manufacture.



Examples of a glass pontil (note the jagged glass on the bottom) and an iron (graphite) pontil. These usually date from the early 1800s to the late 1860s.

MAY 8-9, 1998 SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA. The San Bernardino County Historical Bottle and Collectibles Club 30th annual Show and Sale. Friday 2-7PM, Saturday 9AM-4PM. Kaiser Dome Orange Show Fairgrounds. Corner of Mill and E. Street, San Bernardino, CA. **INFO:** Gary Johnston, 22853 DeBerry, Grand Terrace, CA 92313. (909) 783-4101.

MAY 15 - 16 CAYUCOS, CALIFORNIA Central & Southern Counties Insulator Club's 6th Annual Show & Barbeque (Fri. 4 PM - 9 PM, Sat. 8 AM - 3 PM) at Lions Veterans Hall (at the pier), Cayucos, California. **INFO:** RON NORTON, 234 North 5th St., Port Hueneme, CA 93041, PH: (805) 488-7445, E-mail: rrt@ix.netcom.com.

MAY 16, 1998 RATON, NEW MEXICO Enchantment Insulator Club & Triple Ridge Insulator Club's 6th Annual Tailgater Swap Meet & Barbecue (Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM) at Sugarite Canyon State Park. **INFO:** TOM KATONAK, 1024 Camino de Lucia, Corrales, NM 87048, PH: (505) 898-5592 or BOB RYCKMAN, 2120 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO 80014, PH: (303) 296-8790.

JUNE 5-6, 1998 DENVER, COLORADO 1998 NIA Western Region Show hosted by the Triple Ridge Insulator Club. **INFO:** BOB RYCKMAN, 2120 S. Vaughn Way, 201F, Aurora, CO 80014. PH: (303) 296-8790.

JUNE 12 - 13, 1998 MADERA, CALIFORNIA The Fresno Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club Show & Sale (Fri. 12 PM - 3 PM early buyers, 3 PM - 8 PM general admission; Sat. 9 AM - 4 PM) at the Madera District Fairgrounds, 1850 W. Cleveland Ave., Madera, California. **INFO:** GARY EGOROV, PH: (209) 228-1772.

JUNE 20 PORTLAND, OREGON Oregon Bottle Collectors Association's Annual Show & Sale (Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM, early admission 7 AM) at the Collector's

Market, 8900 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland, Oregon. **INFO:** BILL BOGYNSKA, 1762 Sunset Ave., West Linn, OR 92068, PH: (503) 657-1726 or MARK JUNKER, 3705 S. E. 13th, Portland, OR 97202, PH: (503) 231-1235.

JUNE 20-21 DENVER, COLORADO Antique Bottle Collectors of Colorado Annual Show and Sale (Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM) at the National Western Complex, Denver, Colorado. (In conjunction with the Denver Collector's Fair.) **INFO:** Mike Hofer, 304 Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. (303) 797-7507.

JULY 24 - 25 RENO, NEVADA Reno Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club's 33rd Annual Show & Sale (Sat. 9 AM - 4 PM, early admission Fri. 12 Noon - 8 PM) at the Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall, 1350 N. Wells Av., Reno, Nevada. **INFO:** WILLY YOUNG, PH: (702) 746-0922, HELEN WALKER, PH: (702) 345-0171 or RENO A. B. & C. C., P. O. Box 1061, Verdi, NV 89439-1061.

AUGUST 1 - 2, 1998 CINCINNATI, OHIO The Federation of Historical Bottle Collector's 1998 National Bottle Show & Sale **INFO:** Adam Koch, 763 Jolson Ave., Akron, OH 44319. PH: (330) 644-0274.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1998 ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA. The Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club's 32nd anniversary show and sale at the Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA. Hours: 9AM to 6PM, early bird at 8AM. **INFO:** Dick Homme, 515 El Centro St., South Pasadena, CA 91030. 818/362-3368, John Swearingen 805/492-5036. **The really big show!**

Source: The FOHBC website: www.fohbc.com. Remember, always call ahead before attending a show.

All memberships are \$15.00 per year. If joining the club OR renewing your membership, please mail this form and your check to the club's treasurer Maxine Hanna or talk to Maxine at the next meeting. Maxine's address is: 515 El Centro St. South Pasadena CA 91030 626/441-1627. Make your check payable Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club. If this is a change of address, please send this form to Dave and Esther Hinson at the Whittlemark.

What type of bottle or collectible do you collect?

RENEWAL

ADDRESS CHANGE

NEW MEMBER

PHONE

CITY

STATE

ZIP

ADDRESS

NAME(S)

LOS ANGELES HISTORICAL BOTTLE CLUB
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

The Whittlemark
C/O 2842 El Sol Drive
Lancaster, CA 93535

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Happy Mother's Day

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**