

El Paso Prescription Bottles, the Drug Stores That Used Them and Other Non-Beverage Bottles



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Preface

This book completes my series on the bottle-related industries of El Paso. I began my research in 1992 as a student at the University of Texas at El Paso and published the first work online almost a decade later in 2000. At that point, I was still concentrating on soda bottles and the soda bottling industries of El Paso, Ciudad Juárez, and Southern New Mexico – but I was already branching out into research on beer bottles, milk bottles, and prescription bottles.

I revised the soda bottle book – still online because it was almost 700 pages long – in 2010, a full decade after my initial attempt. I was amazed (and a bit taken aback) at how much more I had learned in ten years. It felt like I revised everything. Within a week after I finished the third chapter, I had already discovered new information, and I have since found several new bottle variations, new photos, and still more data. Maybe in 2020

By this time, my wife, Wanda Wakkinen, and I were planning our retirement. I realized that my collecting days were numbered, and I needed to complete the El Paso studies – and sell my collections. I disposed of my El Paso, Juárez, and New Mexico soda and beer bottle collection in two phases during 2012 and 2013. In 2013, I also completed my book on the El Paso and Juárez Breweries, beer bottles, and beer cans – with a section on the Juárez liquor industry during Prohibition.

Between 2010 and 2013, I had written a series of articles for the *Artifact* – the journal of the El Paso Archaeological Society – about El Paso Dairy bottles. I had organized the articles around manufacturing techniques, so I began my El Paso dairy and milk bottle book in chronological order by dairy – a totally different approach. I completed the El Paso dairy book in 2014.

As I write this in early 2014, my target date for completion of the final El Paso volume is mid-2015. It will be interesting to see how close I come. This book will be in two sections. The first will concentrate on the El Paso drug stores, with an emphasis on the stores that used bottles that I have been able to find. I am certain that there were many other bottles, both embossed and with paper labels that I have missed, so there may be a revision to this book in the future, also.

The second section will be about the “other” bottles used in El Paso. These include just about anything that was bottled in the city that was *not* soda, beer, liquor, or milk, since I covered those in my earlier books. This includes food containers, perfume, oils, beauty products, and other “oddball” bottles. I have not limited myself to glass this time – and have added several cans to the list.