

# MINI Z

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



THE ONLY MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB IN AUSTRALASIA WITH A NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



COVER BOTTLES

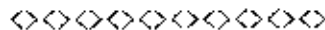
We are especially pleased this month to have our 'own label' bottles on the cover. It has taken many letters to the distillery and much hard work by several committee members to bring you these.

Both labels are white with the diagonal 'Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club' background being in pale green. The Gin label has all other writing in red and the Vodka uses blue.

We have plenty of gin at present but only a few Vodka as we are awaiting more being distilled and bottled. To save extra postage expenses the Vodka we have currently will be reserved for overseas members on a first come, first served basis. We will, however, ask that all members who want both order them together - your vodka will be posted as soon as the bottles reach us.

Cost is NZ.\$2.50 to members and NZ.\$3.00 to non-members. A wholesale rate of NZ.\$2.00 is available to bottle stores that require a supply. Bottles to go in the stores will each have a card with them giving the address of the club and the cost of membership. Members who are on friendly terms with their local bottle store manager are asked to approach him and see whether he would like some to sell. Please enclose a cheque with your order. Cost of postage per 2 bottles, surface mail, is NZ.\$1.00 (non standard letter rate) within New Zealand and NZ.\$1.65 (small packet rate) overseas. Please double these rates for 4 bottles, postage cost of larger quantities or for airmail on request. As a guide to our US members to arrive at the US-dollar price add 10% to the NZ dollar price then half it.

The club still has for sale a very few of the Jim Beam bottles with our name on. We also have a small supply of 'Coachman Gin' all with good labels - poor labels have been a real problem with this bottle. Both these are N.Z.\$2.00 each plus postage.



\* \* \* \* \* ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND \* \* \* \* \*

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\*  
\* Next February sees the 5th Anniversary of the Club. To celebrate we are  
\* having a weekend away from it all.  
\*  
\* Member Dianne Opie lives on a farm just outside Patea in Taranaki. She  
\* and husband Ron have lots of space and lots of spare beds. Those that  
\* want to can also camp on the property (tents provided if required) or stop  
\* in the local motel in Patea. Naturally we would like as many members to  
\* attend as possible. Those that are near enough and do not wish to stop  
\* overnight can come on Sunday for our annual lunchtime barbeque and afternoon  
\* swapmeet.  
\*  
\* Date: 22/23 February 1986  
\* Cost: NIL - (B.V.O. food, drink and swaps)  
\* Children: Welcome.  
\*  
\* Please let the club know A.S.A.P. if you are going to attend so that we can  
\* let Dianne know how many to expect. If enough are attending other activities  
\* will also be arranged.  
\*  
\* Also, please let us know if you intend to camp or if you want booking into  
\* the motel, otherwise we will assume that you are stopping with Dianne.  
\*  
\* \* \* \* \*

## HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### PORT

It is not clear when Port as we know it today came into being but it is thought to be around 1678. For centuries before this Portugal had been sending its red wines to England. To ensure they reached their destination in a drinkable state brandy was added to the wine after fermentation had stopped. Whether by accident or design a Monk added the brandy before the fermentation had ceased. Two English winebuyers tasted this and sent the wine to England. It gained immediate popularity, and Port was born.

The various categories of Port are dependent on the age of the drink and as a consequence its colour. The youngest port is ruby which is a blend of young ports. If the ports were left to mature in casks they would lighten in colour thus becoming tawny ports. The finest tawnies are bottled with an indication of age 10, 20, 30 or 40 years (the oldest permitted). Usually the older it is, the lighter it is. Tawny is the favourite port of the makers. White Port is the white equivalent of ruby port.

Late bottled vintage is a new style and must be bottled between the fourth and sixth years after the grapes were picked. It is made from a single years grapes whereas the previous ports are a blend of years. This is a "cheap" version of vintage port and is ready to drink as soon as it is bottled. Grahams have produced a miniature of their 1979 late bottled vintage and hopefully they will continue to do so for subsequent years.

The greatest of all ports is vintage but it is unlikely to be bottled as a miniature. It is only made in the best years and is the only port that is matured in the bottle. The best vintage ports will take 30 years to reach their peak, and they represent only 2% of the port produced.

Many countries have copied the port style, some more successfully than others. Australian port can be particularly good with some Australian Vintage Ports having won gold medals in Uporto. There are a few good New Zealand ruby ports, but none of these are bottled in miniature.

## FRANK WYNN



## SCOTCH WHISKY MINIATURES - PART 3.

In this issue's article on Scotch Whisky Miniatures we will focus on the main regions in which Scotch is distilled.

In general terms, there are two types of malt whisky which can be differentiated regionally. The Eastern Malts which, of course, come from the East of Scotland tend to be more lightly scented, less full and less smokey, than the Western Malts which come from Western Scotland, notably the Island of Islay. Within these two broad types there are several important tasting areas each with its unique style of whisky. These are:

Speyside  
Keith and Elgin  
Northern Highland  
Lowland

Islay  
Campbelltown  
Eastern Highland  
Other Islands  
Southern Highland

### Speyside

The Speyside whiskies are the classic malt whiskies of Scotland.

Even though they may offer a wide range of tasting experiences they belong together as a group. None have characteristics more typical of another area.

The malts whose water sources form part of the Spey river system are rated higher than any other whisky both by the connoisseur and the blender. The name GLENLIVET is used on many of these malts, however, only the originator of the name, George & J.G. Smith Limited are entitled to use the name The Glenlivet.

### Keith and Elgin

The malts from this area are said to have much in common with those from Speyside.



SPEYSIDE

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KEITH AND ELGIN

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### Lowland

Lowland Malts are typically light and sweet. Most are used for blending with only a handful being readily available.

### Eastern Highland

These malts are reputed to be gentler than those of Speyside but to have more character than those further south.

### Northern Highland

There are considerable differences between the tasting characteristics of the whiskies of this region, ranging between 'fuller flavoured' and 'fragrant and mellow'.

### Southern Highland

The characteristic taste of these malts is said to reflect their location between the Lowlands and the Highlands proper, with bias towards the former. Oban and Blair Athol are exceptions with their 'smokey' taste.



[ LOWLAND ] [ EASTERN HIGHLAND ] [ NORTHERN HIGHLAND ] [ SOUTHERN HIGHLAND ]

### Campbelltown

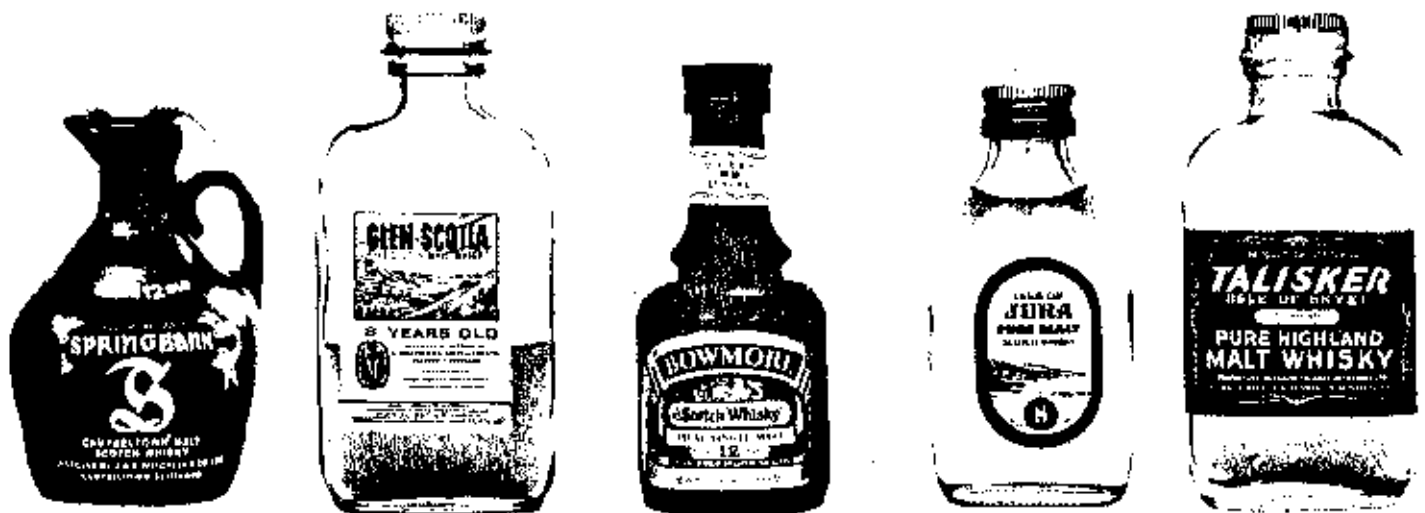
Only two distilleries, Springbank and Glen Scotia, of the as many as 32, exist today. Economic depression and a failure to maintain standards led to mass closures in the 1920's - a process being sadly repeated elsewhere in Scotland today. The two whiskies are completely different. Springbank is light, soft and rich while Glen Scotia is more like the erstwhile Campbelltown whiskies; heavily peated and full bodied. Miniatures commemorating the former distilleries are currently on sale in limited numbers.

## Isle of Islay

Adjectives such as peaty, pungent and iodine have been used to describe the eight Islay Malts. They are said to be not to everybody's taste, but are to mine (hint, hint). No blend is said to be complete without its fair quota of Islay malts.

## Other Islands

Like the Islands themselves these malts are of great individual character ranging from the blandness of Isle of Jura to the heavy smokiness of Talisker from the Isle of Skye.



CAMPBELLTOWN

ISLAY

OTHER ISLANDS

These geographical groupings must be regarded as a general guide only. There are differences between one distillery and another even on the same stream using the same production techniques.

## COLIN RYDER

### Tasting Experience

It may seem odd to make suggestions about how to taste malt whisky, but these notes may be useful, even if only to help understand the fine distinctions drawn by others. The sampling of a malt is carried out in three stages:

#### Nose:

The aroma or bouquet. A sort of reconnaissance by sniffing. This is how the blender judges the whiskies he samples. (He might be hard put to actually taste 750 specimens of whisky in a day).

#### Palate:

The taste in the mouth where the flavour is decided. If a wine were the subject of the tasting, this might be the end of it and the sample might be spat out. Fortunately, there is a further stage in the tasting of malt whisky, which requires that the spirit be swallowed:

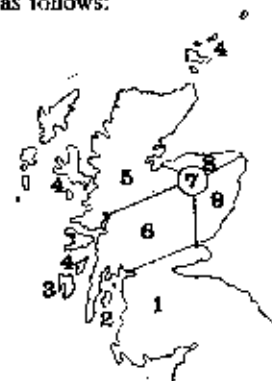
#### Throat:

After the warm feeling in the throat comes the 'aftertaste' or 'aftermath' — a reprise of taste, in which the expert may detect elements missed by nose or palate.

#### Tasting Areas:

The usual classification of malts into Highland, Lowland, Campbeltown and Islay leaves a disproportionately high number of malts in the Highland category. For this reason, the latter has been divided into six, so that we have nine tasting areas, as follows:

1. Lowland
2. Campbeltown
3. Islay
4. Other island
5. Northern Highland
6. Southern Highland
7. Speyside
8. Keith & Elgin
9. Eastern Highland



Map from *Scotch in Miniature* by Alan Keegan.

Illustrations from *The Whisky Miniature Bottle Collector* Vol. II by James A. Triffon.

Both books are still in print and details of where to purchase can be supplied on request.

THE PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE GEOGRAPHY PUZZLE

WHISKY ITALIAN	P--- G---
GIN ENGLISH	-O-----
WHISKY SCOTCH	---R-----
VODKA NEW ZEALAND	---T-----
BEER PHILIPPINES	--N M-----
GIN ENGLISH	----I-
WHISKY SCOTCH	---C--
COCKTAIL AMERICAN	---H-----
LIQUEUR AMERICAN	---O-----
WHISKEY IRISH	---L--
GIN ENGLISH	---S-----
TEQUILA AUSTRALIAN	E- -O--
RUM WEST INDIES	---N- G--
BEER NEW ZEALAND	--M---
WHISKY JAPANESE	-I-----
RUM AUSTRALIAN	--N-----
COCONUT LIQUEUR CANADIAN	---I--
BEER ENGLISH	-A-----
WHISKY SCOTCH	---T-----
WHISKY NEW ZEALAND	-U-----
MUSCATEL ISRAEL	--R---
WHISKY SCOTCH	---E-----
GIN ENGLISH	---B--
GIN ENGLISH	----O---
WHISKY SCOTCH	---T-----
WHISKEY AMERICAN	---T-----
VODKA AMERICAN	-L-----
GIN AUSTRALIAN	---E---
SCHNAPPS DUTCH	-C-----
LIQUEUR CZECHOSLOVAKIAN	---L-----
RHUM SPANISH	S-- -U--
WHISKY SCOTCH	-B-----

The answers represent a City or Town somewhere in the World.  
As an extra clue I have included the name of the Country where the  
drink is bottled, this doesnt necessarily mean that the answer is  
also located in that Country.

**ERICA MULDER**

## COMPETITION

This months competition comes from Erica Mulder, and it don't seem easy!

All entries are to be sent direct to Erica at 37 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland - NOT to the club postal address. (This is the first competition not organised by yours truly so I would like to have a go for once. As I empty the post office box I don't want to be disqualified - David).

Please state on your entry whether you would prefer 5 Austrian liqueurs, 5 German liqueurs or 5 Whiskys bottled for the German market as your prize. (Refer June/July issue.)

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## LYRICAL BOOZE COMPETITION

Well, if ever a competition stirred up a lot of interest, this was it. Stories abound as to how members got at their answers and we were telephoned and 'pumped' regularly - usually to the callers disadvantage.

Chris Matthews is Manager of the largest musical instrument shop in New Zealand and so had an obvious advantage. The meeting after the Violin Bottles had arrived was at Chris & Janes house and so Chris hung onto the bottles, determined to win them.

Just as determined that Chris would not win (because he had so many advantages) was Ian Butcher. Ian sells insurance for a living and so has a fair amount of time free during the day between appointments. Seemingly a large part of that time has been taken up in libraries, record and music shops.

Some members took a long time to 'twig' that there were three songs with no drinks in them. Ian Butcher had only 2 verses of the Star Spangled Banner and wanted to know if there were more. Jackie gave him the third verse and told him there was nothing in it - which had Ian even more puzzled. By pure coincidence, later that day David came across a reference to the Mormon Hymnal showing all four verses of the U.S. national anthem. Ian was duly sent a copy of the reference and then spent several hours trying to obtain a copy of the Mormon Hymnal - not that it did him any good!

Both Ian Butcher and Nigel Rose 'endured' the Sex Pistols version of God Save the Queen - several times. Some people will go to any lengths to get something out of nothing. Nigel managed to find a Gracie Fields record in a local shop but had to listen to the whole side to hear 'In My Little Bottom Drawer'. As Nigel is only 20 you can imagine how well this went down.

Dick Cotton did not enter. Dick and Carol, his wife, went to the local library and looked up God Save the Queen. They only managed to find God Save the King, which only goes to prove that Waltham, Massachusetts has



not yet moved into the second half of the Twentieth Century! Not finding anything in God Save the King they ended up having a row and throwing the competition away. Happily divorce proceedings are not continuing.

Dianne Opie enlisted the help of Radio Taranaki and sat in their studios listening to records. Ian Butcher did the same with Radio Windy. Several members were well fooled by the Diamonds are Forever clue - nothing to do with the James Bond film, the song is by Neil Diamond. Janne Matthews was so intent on listening to Mathew and Son that she almost crashed her car.

All in all a well worthwhile competition for us to do.

Winner was Ian Butcher with 39½ out of what proved to be 44 not 40 as stated. Second was Dianne Opie with 32 and third Nigel Rose with 31. Well done to you three and all the others who entered.

*David & Jackie Smith*

ANSWERS:

1. The Gambler - Whisky, 2. Sunny Afternoon - Beer, 3. There's a Tavern in the town - Wine, 4. God Save the Queen - Nothing, 5. Campbelltown Loch - Whisky, 6. The Escape - Pinacolada and Champagne, 7. Mad Dogs & Englishmen - Scotch and Rye, 8. All Creatures of our God and King - Water, 9. Mathew and Son - Coffee, 10. Liverpool Judies - Whisky and Lime Juice, 11. Jug of Punch - Punch, 12. Lovely Rita - Tea, 13. Vienna my City of Dreams - Sparkling Wine, 14. A Hazy Shade of Winter - Vodka & Lime, 15. In Nean - Coffee, 16. Lilly the Pink - Medicinal Compound and Paraffin, 17. Where do you go to - Brandy, 18. Kiss me Goodnight. St. Major - Tea, 19. The Star Spangled Banner - nothing, 20. Bye Bye Miss American Pie - Whisky & Dry, 21. Jessie - Wine, 22. Honky Tonk Woman - Gin, 23. In the Bleak Mid Winter - Water and Milk, 24. If you know what I mean - Wine, 25. When I'm 64 - Wine, 26. Who will Buy - Milk, 27. Lola - Cherry or Coca Cola and Champagne, 28. Foo Low for Zero - Coffee, 29. The Day we went to Bangor - Cider, 30. A taste of Honey - Wine, 31. We'll Meet Again - nothing, 32. Uncle Albert - Water and Tea, 33. Jack and Jill - Water, 34. All Packed up in my Little Bottom Drawer - Beer, 35. That's Amore - Wine, 36. Bonnie Dundee - Port and Wine, 37. I Belong to Glasgow - Gin, Tea and Dooch an Dories.

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AUCKLAND CLUB MEETING

The First P.N.M.B.C. Meeting to be held in Auckland was a great success. It took place on Sunday the 18th August - the same date as the regular Wellington meeting.

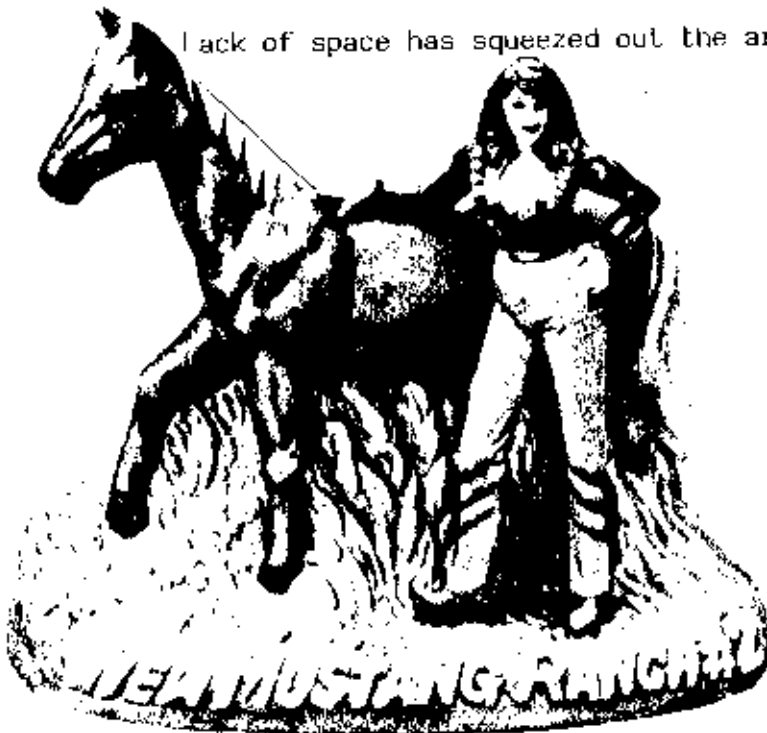
Ten people were present (as many as attended in Wellington - Ed.) and it was especially pleasing to see 'out of town' members from Thames and Cambridge. Several members brought their swaps and needless to say a lot of minis changed hands. Doesn't time fly when you are having fun? All too soon the meeting came to an end, but not before everyone present agreed that it must be the first of many at the top end of the North Island. (See D.T.P. Next Meetings)

**ERICA MULDER**

# BROTHEL BOTTLES



Lack of space has squeezed out the article we had prepared for this edition.



However, there have been a couple of interesting developments relating to the Mustang Ranch which was featured in the last edition.

The first is that I now have a clear picture of their latest miniature. This is another in Dug's series. The other is that the brothel has just been sold. The small clipping is from The Dominion (Wellington's morning newspaper). I received another much larger clipping from Dug Picking.

The Mustang Ranch is now owned by Strong Point Incorporated, (Somewhat appropriate name don't you think!) a U.S. Public Company. This is the first time ownership of a legal brothel has passed into the hands of a public company. The shares are doing well!

*David Smith*

## Brothel sold

THE United States' largest legal brothel, the Mustang ranch in Nevada, has been sold for \$N234.2 million. Joe and Sally Conforte said yesterday they had sold the business to a southern California company.



## NEW PLYMOUTH AUCTION

Six members attended an auction in New Plymouth on the 3rd. August. These two newspaper articles give very different slants - now for the truth!

The auction was advertised as having in it 3,000 miniatures - there were under 900. All the assorted collections being auctioned had been bought up by a Waitara couple over a couple of years. They planned to make a killing. Approximately half of the minis were Dianne Opie's former swaps.

Prices were not high for most things, but there were enough miniature collectors there (non members as well as members) to make bidding lively and prices higher than have been fetched recently in Wellington or at the regular Palmerston North auctions.

The auctioneers were useless - they should stick to selling cattle.

## Antique auction

An antique auction in New Plymouth on Saturday disappointed Waitara vendors Fred and Joann Moratti.

It was a buyer's day for the 200 people who bid low for about 700 lots of bottles, dolls and Jim Beam whiskey decanters, said Mrs Moratti today.

"We felt many things brought about one-third of their value. I think there were too many articles and the auctioneers just rushed them through," she said.

"Many articles sold for less than we paid for them years ago."

A delicate, old ivory manicure set fetched \$2. Some items went for about \$100 instead of an expected \$350.

Among some of the new things sold, an immaculate seven-year-old leather chair sold for \$15, an almost complete china dinner set, \$15.

The average successful bid for vintage decanters was \$200, some antique dolls sold for \$300 and a can of beer went for \$67.

Mrs Moratti said she and her husband had collected these items for several years until they began to take over their home.

## Antiques auctioned

An auction of antique bottles, dolls and a collection of Jim Beam whiskey decanters attracted about 200 people in New Plymouth on Saturday.

Livestock manager for the auctioneers, Dalgely Crown. Mr Rod St George, said that a line of miniature spirits bottles brought a good price, as did the Jim Beam collection.

The average successful bid for vintage decanters was \$200 while some antique dolls went for \$300. One can of beer went for \$67.

## NEW MEMBERS

This month we are pleased to welcome two more new members:

Stan Keutenius, 7 Parry Road, Otahuhu, Auckland, Phone 09 276 6461

Ross Jackson, Pataua North, R.D.5, Whangarei, Phone 089 85 603

It is our sad duty to report the death of one of our members, Robert Williams of Miami, Florida. The late Mr. Williams is the first death the club has had in its almost 5 years of existence - lets hope its at least another 5 years before we loose another friend.

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## D. T. P. NEXT MEETINGS

- 20th October - Russel Thomson's, 47 Collier Avenue, Karori
- 17th November - Steuart Goodman's, 22 Anne Street, Wadestown
- Also
- 17th November - Frank Wynn's, 25 Reid Road, New Lynn, Auckland
- Above meetings 2.00pm Wellington, 1.00pm Auckland
- 30th November - December Meeting! Dinner 8.00pm at Mortons, Whitby. Meet 7.00 - 7.30pm at Ian Butcher's, 60 Discovery Drive Whitby. Restaurant is a B.Y.O. Please let Janne Matthews know A.S.A.P. if you wish to attend, cost about \$20/25 per person.
- 19th January - To be arranged
- 22/23 Feb. - Weekend Away + Barbeque - See Page 2.

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## SNIPPETS

Mac Gregor Liqueurs has been bought by Wilson Neil the Dunedin based National Liquor Wholesaler. Management is to remain unchanged so lets hope we still see the long promised new minis.

J.P. Van Winkle & Son currently have their Western Boot and U.S.C. Trojan minis on special @ US.\$5.00 each plus postage. These minis are top quality and are labelled for Old Commonwealth Bourbon. J.P. Van Winkle are at 2843 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40206, U.S.A.

What do members think about say a one page article in each miNiZ featuring one of our members and what they collect. Let me know how you feel as I can't run such a series without a lot of co-operation from members. What I would attempt to do is to run a New Zealand collector one month and an overseas collector the following. It would appear to me to be a great way of us getting to know one another better.

Editor.

## Cocktail of the Month

### MORTICIAN



Our cocktail this month is one of the specialties of 'The Oaks Brasserie' in the Oaks Shopping Centre, Manners Street, Wellington. I can thoroughly recommend this establishment to all Wellington members and those intending to visit the capital. The meals are good, drinks are good and varied (but you couldn't say cheap) and entertainment is provided by a 1920's style string quartet.

- 1 measure Tequila
- 1 measure Vodka
- 1 measure Tia Maria
- 1 measure Drambuie
- 1 measure Irish Cream
- 2 or 3 measures of cream according to taste.

Shake and Serve.



### COLLECTOR'S COURT

The annual Collector's Court is again being held at the Sport and Recreation Fielddays, at the Mystery Creek, Hamilton Showgrounds, on the 9th & 10th November.

Several members have attended and exhibited in previous years and this year will be no exception.

Whether exhibiting, just coming for the weekend, or simply having a day out, we can well recommend it.

For those that wish to exhibit there is no charge, simply write to NZ National Fielddays Society, Private Bag, Hamilton, and tell them how much space you require (Modules are 10ft wide x 7ft deep) and what you intend to exhibit.

See you there!

