

Randy's Collection History

So many 1,000 of hours working on this Michigan Beer Cans project, photographing my own collection individual cans THREE times (iterations with photo box, lighting and camera), majority of which are still viewable with the MBC content. Looking back, I can't believe I didn't do more with pictures of the entire displayed collection itself!!!

I started with nicely built pine shelves, plywood backing, and custom made sliding glass doors. This was great for a long time, but many beer cans shows lead to many beer can additions, and the collection outgrew this main display and spread to a number of additional shelving units around my home office and into the next door living area, where I still displayed approximately 1,200 cans from the 1970-1980s, as well as my side collecting interest California self-opening juice/zip/fan/ring/pull tabs.

Some former favorites 😊



Highlights include some shiny Goebel Guinness Beer and Ale, red Altes Sportsman Ale trivia cans, cherry picking from various shows, and of course the Pfeiffer scenic cans.

Those four individual groupings really the only beer cans from Michigan I wish I had kept, especially given the bat s...t crazy hammer prices auctions in 2022-2024 have been getting.

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy/MichCollection>

My "Goebel" Goebel

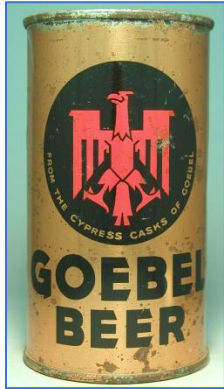


Examples of the Goebel with "Goebel" across the middle banner instead of the more common "Gold Label" are not easy to find any condition, but in 2005 I was contacted by Dan Baker (part of the BeerCansPlus "Good Guys") about two nice examples found with their top lid cut out.

The following link documents my selection, with high resolution images of all sides of the two cans found comparing with the best known in an Ann Arbor collection.

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy/GoebelGoebel>

Upgrading my Goebel OI's



Spring of 2006, I was contacted by Kevin Lilek, author of the “United States Beer Cans with Opening Instructions”, that he was selling some of his OIs, specifically his Goebel cans. Absolutely YES, I purchased all **eight** cans.

Stuck inside over a rainy Easter weekend, I took detailed pictures of the eight cans as well as my current collection examples, compared side-by-side and determined what was being put on my shelves.

The following link fully documents my decisions.

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy/LilekGoebel>

My first Michigan cone top



The year was 1982, me being just 17 years old, along with my future wife **Deanna** drove from southern Michigan to a Beer Cans Monthly show in Kentucky. Picked up a few cans, failed miserably at some auction cans, but an older gentleman asked if I was interested in a minty E&B special.

Likely a stupid decision at the time, but we followed him back to his place, down some dirt roads (all before cell phones and GPS) and purchased this example for \$25.

Now years later, and likely he knew already, over 4,000 of these were found mint and unfilled in the old E&B warehouse on 1551 Windser St, Detroit MI

The elusive “Long A” Altes

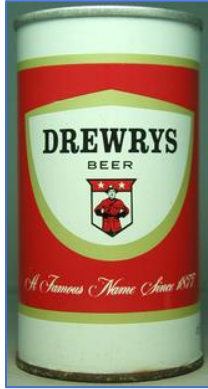


An example of this can is pictured in the beer can “Bible” but location still unknown. In 2003, while photographing cans at Jack Lucas home in Michigan, he arranged for the late John McGuire to bring over his example, whom had acquired it from Harry Keithline in a “trade to be made later”. My first ever meeting John, he walks into the room with bellowing voice “What the hell are you doing”. Loved him from that first moment and some great memories travelling/rooming with John later years.

My specific example was acquired at the 2004 BCCA Convention in Dearborn, as a gift from Al Cambridge, also first collector owner of the only nice Detroit Regal. Only thing he would accept was breakfast the next morning with Dale Rogalski.

I arranged for John's, mine and only known dumper to be brought to a Blue/Gray to be pictured together, but that is another fun story. Years back some flat sheets were found, rolled and zip lidded, but still a very hard to find beer can. My specific can went to specialist Don Hahn, and sold again in Morean auction December 1, 2024. Fun to compare the auction can pictures, matching mine exactly my former can!

Drewry from Detroit / Associated



My friend the late John McGuire gave me a nice 2+/1- example for my collection. While not the example photographed to the left, his can sits in a BeerCanKeeper on my collection shelves, one can I will never let loose.

The Drewry's cans from Indiana are very common, Chicago a bit tougher, the can with Detroit you almost never see and has rarely been dumped. Heck, one time I drove from Dowagiac, MI to Fort Wayne, IN to photograph this 1+ example.

Black Label Bock from Frankenmuth

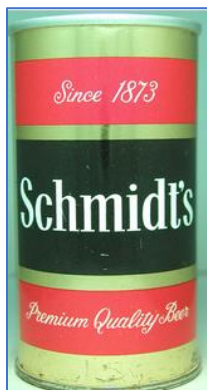


Fall 2004, Jack Lucas located a “beer can chest” wrapped with Regal Pale Bock in San Jose, CA. As part of this project, we each ended up with 10 pretty nice rolled and correctly lidded examples. Part of my half sold quickly (two phone calls BEFORE we even told any collectors about the find).

The Black Label Bock is hard to find clean condition from Cleveland, super tough from Frankenmuth, and at the Blue/Gray I sold some Regal Pale Bock, I used the \$\$\$ to purchase this sweet example from the Rogalski's Bock Sale. Indirectly a very good trade. Fun details of the Regal Pale Bock “treasure chest” please see the below URL.

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy/RegalPaleBock>

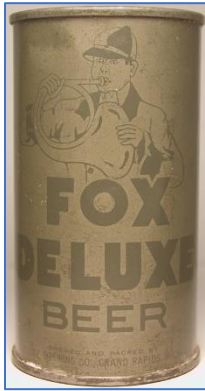
Black/Red/Gold Schmidts zip



Used to be a very tough can, but recent finds have made a bit easier. My example another John McGuire arrangement, this time working with Harry Keithline to sell me his nice condition example. I never met Harry, but John sure had many fun (and maybe not some legal) stories of their adventures!!!!

I look back on my noted CanDB purchase price, one that John considered on the high end, now pales to current auction hammer prices.

Fox Deluxe OD



Acquired from Dale Rogalski, 2003, at a beer can show in Waynesville, Ohio. Possibly the very best example known, and by far the most I ever spent on a single beer can. Pretty sure this came from the Lewandowski collection, previously from the Garad collection. Full disclosure, I did get permission from my wife before this purchase!

At the same show I held and photographed the only known yellow Cardinal from E&B. Can is a short sheet rolled around another can, and I simply couldn't justify the price of both cans.

Unfortunately I don't know where my OD went, my guess Kalamazoo, MI

Mr Greg Stinsa – Part 1 & 2 & 3

Former amazing collector out of Chicago whom I arranged to photograph some of his Michigan cans for the MBC project. Three great visits, the first to simply photograph beer cans. Second visit I mentioned “maybe” stopping by on my way back to O'Hare airport from visiting family in Michigan, but he insisted I **must** visit that trip. He had arranged a wonderful evening with additional guests David and Jane Stark, Jodi Otto and I can't remember the other name. Third visit was quick stop from O'Hare, driving to Cedar Point in Sandusky, OH with the kids later that night, to photograph some of his new Michigan additions.

Mr Greg Stinsa – Part 4 & 5 & 6

In 2003, since Greg was good friends with David and Jane Stark, he arranged a visit to the Starks for me to take some additional photos. Wow, Dick and Jack had not only a super beer can collection, but Dagwood items, match boxes, cigarette packages, and household cleaning items! A dang museum everywhere. I only took pictures of two beer cans, but Dave also allowed me to photograph the Silver and Royal Finest cones.

That same trip I made six hour round trip drive to Appleton, WI to photograph the only good Regal. Dr Tom Wascher was in process of re-arranging his cans/shelves and had most stacked in simple cardboard flats. I had to ask him to get the Regal for me please, I was afraid of knocking over a stack of rare OIs!!!

Later 2003, Greg knowing I specialized in Michigan, offered me his two Goebel Guinness, one ale, one beer, straight off his shelf. Fair price, touching offer, I could not say NO.

Bummer in 2004, I get email that Greg has decided to sell and get out of collecting. He and his wife were finishing adopting two wonderful boys and were moving to outer Chicago area. I was literally on a plane the NEXT day. Was somewhat somber experience walking into his can room which now had so many open spaces previously holding rare gems. Local collectors had already cherry picked numerous examples, but I still brought home eight sweet upgrades to my Goebel and Frankenmuth cans.

In total at one time I had **FOURTEEN** cans from Greg proudly sitting on my Michigan shelves.

The Lewandowski collection

Michael Lewandowski and his brother Dave were two very well known advanced collectors from Chicago whom at one time had an amazing collection of some of the rarest cans in the hobby. If you had a super rare can they needed, they were going to trade for it somehow!

When they sold their collection late 2002 and emailed spreadsheet of super rare beauties I immediately purchased their Pfeiffer OD and one Goebel Guinness Beer and one Goebel Guinness Ale. Early 2003, I received updated list of remaining cans, there were still Goebel Guinness cans listed, and I made an offer to purchase all their remaining. Total of **EIGHT** former Lewandowski gems landed on my shelves, and I can't believe I have no photographs opening those packages!!!

The Bob McCoy collection



Bob had an amazing collection, highlighted by many super high quality cones and crown-tainers. July 2003, on family visit to Michigan, I arranged visit to Indiana to photograph his Tivoli propellor "Victory" can, one of few known still today. Great hospitality, and we visited for couple hours even though just photographing a couple cans.

December 2004, Bob decided to sell some cans, and I got the opportunity to purchase his gem mint Frankentmuth cones, both Air Free and Dog Gone Good and his rare mint example from Kentucky.

Couple years later Bob was visiting CA, was going to be in the Pebble Beach area, and I was able to arrange a round of golf on the famed Pebble Beach course and my wife and I spent wonderful evening dinner with his family.

Mr Chris Taylor

Chris was the first Michigan expert I visited after taking initial pictures of my own Michigan cans. That was followed five more over the years visiting family in Michigan (always great to stop in Ann Arbor), countless emails, phone calls, and great meeting up at many beer can shows. Not only has Chris been major factor in moving the MBC project forward to a complete/general availability project, Chris provided me **SIXTEEN** different variations directly, and many more I purchased/traded at shows I have incorrectly cataloged by the show name, not directly from Chris.

Blue/Gray 2004, Chris and I walking around looking at open rooms, I pick up a nice condition Menominee cone top from Keith Belcher's tote, but I already had a nice 1+ and was putting it back, when Chris stated "you don't have that can". He was absolutely correct as usual, super sharp memory, and I indeed did not own the rare non-IRTP version of that Menominee can! That non-IRTP did not make it back into Keith's tote but instead came home with me!

Other collecting friends / Beer can shows

By far the best way to add beer cans to your collection is attending beer can shows, meeting face-to-face with collecting friends, chat about their interests, your interests, help each other, fair trades in both directions. Simple word of mouth, I had numerous calls/texts/emails “are you interested in can XYZ”.

This list is very large, including (incomplete and listed in alphabetical order by first name):

Al Cambridge, Alex Draper, Chris Taylor, Chuck Starrett, Dale Rogalski, Dan Baker, Dan Bora, Dan Morean, Dee Landers, Dick Adamowicz, Don Kaiser, Don Wild, Ed Stroh, Eric Lindstrom, Erik Amundonson, Gene DiCicco, Gene Goulet, Gene Judd, Gerry Bussey, Greg Stinsa, Harry Keithline, Jack Lucas, Jeff Musser, Jim Mahler, Joe Wilson, John Kretchmer, John McGuire, John McLogan, Keith Belcher, Keith Neil, Ken Haratoonian, Kevin Foley, Leon Hampton, Michael Lewandowski, Rand Lindsey, Rawley Douglas, Robert Fondren, Steve Gordon, Ted Larsen, Tom Leo, Tom Rutlidge, Tom Sliwa, Tom Waggoner, Will Hartlep

Wow you have a great memory!

Pfft!!! Guys like Chris Taylor and Marc Tracy have super sharp beer can computer minds, able to recall the smallest of crazy details. Me, maybe one time many years ago, but now an old fart and sometimes can't remember why I walked into a room. Fortunately, I have had some form of the CanDB software available since 2002, and EVERY beer can acquisition fully documented the date, price paid, show, person or things like ads/Ebay. I simply let CanDB provide me information when I ask! Shameless plug, since I am the software engineer who wrote CanDB:

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/CanDB>

Why get rid of your collection?

We added upstairs to our Pebble Beach home in 2000, and long entire back wall of the living room and my office soon had beer can shelves to unpack cans that had been in boxes way too long. Quickly found the Rusty Bunch site, jumped “all in”, BMV (digitizing Rustlings), CanDB, much travel and visits with the MBC project, so many shows, so many absolutely wonderful visits with so many great collecting friends.

Well not all roses, becoming known as a specialist willing to pay \$\$\$, a few former “friends” started treating me as their personal ATM. Combined with much rising offers, getting harder and harder to find new cans for the shelves, fully documented reasons me quitting the BCCA forever after being called a “thief stealing intellectual property” and an “arrogant SOB” for demanding anything from the BCCA, I quit the BCCA hard stop 2007, sold majority of my collection to Ted Larsen, and walked away from the hobby cold turkey:

<https://www.mbcinfo.com/Randy/BCMRequest>

Spring 2011, I am cleaning out my office and about to discard an old laptop. Wow, my BMV and CanDB software still running years later. I rediscovered the Rusty Bunch again, Chris Taylor and Steve Gordon convinced me to give the BMV project another go, and while no longer willing to spend major \$\$\$ (there are a few beer cans I still want, but ZERO that I must have), here we are...



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