

LOVE, WAR, BRIDGES, BOTTLES—1970 HAD IT ALL

By Steve Charing

When Dan McAdams called a meeting of a group of enthusiastic bottle collectors in September 1970, our country was still torn by the war in Vietnam. Earlier, in the spring, President Nixon ordered an invasion of Cambodia, which, in effect, expanded the war leading to the massive protests and the tragic killings at Kent State. There were other hot spots in the world as well--Biafra and Jordan, for example--and Egypt's President Nasser died, giving way to Anwar el-Sadat. France's former President Charles DeGaulle died as well. An earthquake in Peru killed over 50,000 people. Drugs took the lives of two of rock music's young stalwarts, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. Boxing champ Sonny Liston also passed away that year. And the Beatles were breaking up, which to many, was a fate worse than death. Undaunted by all these horrific events, that meeting took place in Dan's Baltimore home on Cedarcroft Road, and the **Baltimore Bottle Hounds** was born amidst the shards of a world in turmoil.

Back in 1970 we were getting accustomed to such odd cultural anomalies as mood rings, lava lamps, 8-track tapes, platform shoes, smiley faces, and peace symbols (carried over from the 60s). The cost of a first class stamp was just 6 cents, and a dollar then is worth about \$4.39 today. The Dow ranged from 800 to 838 that year. The median household income then was \$8,734. Spiro Agnew was our Vice President, and the world's population was slightly more than half of what it is today. IBM introduced the floppy disk, and you know what that led to. Andre Agassi and Mariah Carey were born in 1970, as were Claudia Schiffer, Debbie Gibson and Uma Thurman.

The 60s duo of Simon and Garfunkel recorded the smash hit *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, which captured several Grammy awards, including song of the year. Other notable songs from 1970 included *Close to You* by the Carpenters, *Everything is Beautiful* by Ray Stevens, *I'll Never Fall in Love Again* by Dionne Warwick and *Rose Garden* by Lynn Anderson. Oh, those memories: Jackson 5's *I Want You Back*, B.J. Thomas' *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head*, the Beatles' *Let it Be*, Neil Diamond's *Cracklin' Rosie*, Diana Ross' *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, Norman Greenbaum's *Spirit in the Sky*, and of course, *I Think I Love You* by The Partridge Family. That's how long this club has been in existence!

When we weren't listening to AM radio, we went to the movie theater. *Airport*, *Love Story*, *Patton*, *Five Easy Pieces* and *M*A*S*H* were the top films in 1970. Recall how George C. Scott won the Oscar for Best Actor in *Patton* but refused to accept the award? Sitcoms dominated television back in 1970. *All in the Family*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and *The Odd Couple* were big Emmy winners. *The Brady Bunch* eventually became a cultural icon. And we cannot forget, as much as we try, *The Partridge Family*. Variety shows like *The Flip Wilson Show*, *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In* and *The Ed Sullivan* show kept us entertained with light fare. Remember variety shows? They suffered the same fate as bell-bottoms. The Emmy for the Outstanding Drama Series went to *The Bold Ones: The Senator*, starring Hal Holbrook, who also won an Emmy. Broadway, however, was quite uneventful in 1970 as *Applause*, starring Lauren Bacall, won the Tony for the Best Musical. The Best Play was *Borstal Boy*. Huh?

It was a good year for sports. The Orioles, led by the heroics of Brooks Robinson, defeated the tough Cincinnati Reds in the World Series 4 games to 1. Earlier, the New York Knicks won their first NBA championship by beating the Los Angeles Lakers in an emotional struggle 4 games to 3. Even earlier, the Kansas City Chiefs won Superbowl IV over the Minnesota Vikings, but who cares? However, 1970 launched the start of *Monday Night Football*, with Don Meredith, Frank Gifford and Howard Cosell. The Cleveland Browns hammered the New York Jets in that one. The Boston Bruins swept the St. Louis Blues for the Stanley Cup in hockey. And John Wooden's mighty UCLA continued its dominance by capturing the NCAA basketball title.

It's nice to take a nostalgic look back to 1970. In many ways, 1970 seems like yesterday. But it's not. Three decades is a long time. And those who belonged to the **Baltimore Bottle Hounds**, which eventually evolved into the **Baltimore Antique Bottle Club**, can be proud that it endured the passing of time and events and triumphed in the process. To that we celebrate.